

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Degree Project in Psychology for Master's Degree**  
**Självständigt arbete i psykologi för masterexamen**

**30.0 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**30.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PSMT42
<b>Valid from:</b>	Spring 2017
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2016-12-20
<b>Department</b>	Department of Psychology
<b>Main field:</b>	Psychology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

## Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Psychology on 2016-12-20.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

180 higher education credits, of which at least 90 credits must constitute Psychology I, II and III or equivalent studies.  
English 6.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
MT42	Degree project in Psychology for Master's degree	30

## Course content

The course involves the independent design and completion of an empirically based scholarly project. The research question should be defined in consultation with the student's supervisor. The research question should be directly relevant to and well established in the field of psychology. The results of the study should be presented in the form of a scholarly report that is structured in accordance with the guidelines for international publication of empirical research reports in the field of psychology.

For theses that are examined in the context of the specialisation Personnel, Work and Organisation, the thesis should also be directly relevant to this specialisation.

## Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- on the basis of theory and previous research, identify scientific problems, choose research design, and process, analyse and interpret the collected data;
- present their own results in speech and in writing, as well as assess the scientific value of the results;
- present, analyse and assess other students' research findings, as well as give constructive criticism.

## Education

Instruction is given in the form of seminars and individual supervision. Supervision may also take place in groups.

Mandatory components:

- (a) Public discussion of the student's own degree project;
- (b) Review of another student's degree project.

The language of instruction is English and/or Swedish.

For more detailed information, please refer to the course description. The course description will be available at least one month before the course starts.

### **Forms of examination**

a) Examination:

The course is examined on the basis of: (I) submission of a written degree project, (II) public discussion of the written degree project, (III) review of another student's degree project.

Examination will be conducted in English and/or Swedish according to the course teacher's instructions.

b) Grading scale:

Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, much additional work required

c) Assessment criteria:

Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts.

d) Final grade:

In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on all examination tasks.

e) Failing the course:

At least two examination opportunities should be offered during each course and semester. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during a semester when the course is not given.

Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be addressed to the department board. Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f) Supplementary assignments:

Opportunities to complete a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade F or Fx into a passing grade are provided in this course.

g) Supervision time:

Students who have started working on their degree projects are entitled to 15 hours of supervision during the course. These hours include time spent indirectly by the supervisor.

h) Assessment criteria:

The degree project will be graded on the basis of the following assessment criteria:

1. Theoretical understanding and analysis are demonstrated by coherent, focused and relevant theoretical arguments that clarify the study's relation and contribution to the advancement of knowledge. Assessed by the examiner.

2. Methodological knowledge and skills related to the choice and implementation of research methods that can answer the research question, including the choice of design, data selection, type of data, and analysis.

The successful implementation of more advanced research methods have the potential to render a higher grade. The ability to critically reflect on the chosen method's strengths and limitations. Assessed by the examiner.

3. Thesis writing. An assessment of whether the thesis is logically organised and well structured, with a consistent and clear focus on the aim and research question(s) of the study. The language should be as reader-friendly as the topic allows. Formatting rules should be applied consistently and accurately; this is particularly important when it comes to references and citations. Assessed by the examiner. Independence. An assessment of the student's own ideas, initiatives, responsibility, creativity, critical reflection, preparation for supervision, and expressive ability. Assessed by the supervisor.

5. Oral discussion and review.

Assessed on the basis of the student's ability to defend his/her own thesis project in oral discussion, as well as the student's ability to critically review and discuss other research projects of the same kind. Assessed by the

examiner.

i) Change of supervisors and examiners:

A change of supervisors may be granted under special circumstances. A student who wishes to change supervisors should state their reasons to the course teacher who, based on the availability of resources and the stated reasons, will decide on and organise the change. In the event of a change, it will be calculated how many supervision hours have been used until then. A student who has failed an examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination.

j) Consequences:

Students who do not finish their degree projects in time are not entitled to more supervision. However, the students are always entitled to have their degree projects graded at a future examination date.

**Interim**

If this course is discontinued, or its contents substantially altered, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for three further semesters.

**Misc**

The course is included in the Master's Programme in Personnel, Work, and Organisation (SMPAO), 120 credits, and the General Master's Programme in Psychology (SPSAO), 120 credits.

**Required reading**

The course literature will be selected in consultation with the supervisor.