Department of Psychology

Syllabus
for course at advanced level
The Psychology of Leadership
Ledarskapets psykologi

Course code: PSMT46
Valid from: Autumn 2019
Date of approval: 2016-12-21
Changed: 2016-12-12
Department: Department of Psychology
Main field: Psychology
Specialisation: A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

7.5 Higher Education Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Decision
This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department of Psychology on 2016-12-20. Technical revision of the Student Department 2019-04-29

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

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Course content
The course covers both theoretical and practical aspects of leadership from a psychological perspective. From a variety of starting points based on the psychological research literature, the course provides advanced knowledge of current issues relating to working life, such as the conditions of leadership and their effects for managers, employees and organisations. Issues regarding gender, ethnicity and social status will also be addressed in the course. The course has a practical component where students will gather information from a specific context in order to highlight theories and research results in relation to a use case.

Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:
- understand, analyse and critically review the meaning, conditions and effects of leadership in organisations from a theoretical and practical psychological perspective;
- independently define relevant questions that highlight practical aspects of leadership from a psychological perspective;
- assess, review critically, present orally, and provide feedback on scholarly works on leadership.

Education
Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.
Course requirements/Mandatory components:
(a) Written assignments for the seminars. The assignments should be submitted before the seminar, within the prescribed time limit.
(b) Written submission of discussion questions relating to the course reading for the seminars. The questions should be submitted before the seminar, within the prescribed time limit.
(c) Oral presentation of a written final assignment at the final seminar.
(d) Review of another student’s assignment at the final seminar.
(e) Seminar attendance is mandatory. For approved seminar attendance, the assignments must be submitted on time. Students who have failed one of (a)-(e) above will be offered a chance to submit a supplementary assignment to the course teacher. The assignment may be oral or written and must be completed before the end of the course. A maximum of two supplementary assignments can be completed in the same course. Students who have failed more than two mandatory assignments will receive a failing grade on the course. 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) Forms of examination:
The course is examined on the basis of individual written assignments in the form of analyses of case descriptions and an essay, as well as an oral presentation using slideshow software. 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 written assignments and complete all other mandatory assignments. Under special circumstances, the examiner may, after consulting with the coordinating teacher, grant the student an exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory course elements or complete mandatory assignments. The student can then be assigned a compensatory assignment. Assignments that are not submitted on time will receive a maximum grade of C.
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 Fx into a passing grade are provided in this course. Approved corrections of simple formatting errors will be graded using the grades A-E. Approved corrections of flaws related to understanding are graded using the grades C-E.

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
Up-to-date information about the required reading will be available on the department website at www.psychology.su.se. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.