

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Higher cognitive functions**  
**Högre kognitiva funktioner**

**7.5 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PSMT55
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2019
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2016-12-20
<b>Changed:</b>	2016-12-20
<b>Department</b>	Department of Psychology
<b>Main field:</b>	Psychology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

## 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

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
MT55	Higher cognitive functions	7.5

## Course content

The course discusses current theories and empirical data relating to higher cognitive functions with a focus on cognitive control functions and their neural mechanisms. These control processes, sometimes referred to as executive functions, are assumed to constitute the basis of goal-oriented behaviour and presume the planning and coordination of complex intentions. This type of cognitive control is also a key element of higher mental activities, including abstract thinking and problem solving, working memory, autobiographical memory, self-image and social interaction. Many neuropsychiatric symptoms are assumed to be related to flaws in executive control. The course also provides advanced knowledge of the relationship between different types of higher cognitive functions with a focus on executive functions, decision-making and metacognition. In addition, the course aims to provide knowledge of individual and age-related differences in higher cognitive functions.

## Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students are expected to be able to:

- describe and apply the theories mentioned in the course;
- orally discuss and problematise theories on higher cognitive functions, as well as demonstrate a deeper understanding of methodological challenges in the subject area;
- relate different types of higher cognitive functions and apply them to real examples.

## Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures, seminars and exercises.  
Course requirements/Mandatory components:

- (a) Submission of discussion questions, no later than the day before the seminar;
- b) Active participation in the seminars;
- (c) Responsibility for a seminar presentation and discussion.

Seminar attendance is mandatory with a maximum of two missed sessions. A supplementary written examination is offered to attain a higher grade.

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 continuously on the basis of written assignments, active participation in the seminars, an oral seminar presentation and a written examination. 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 seminars, submit all discussion questions and receive a passing grade on the seminar presentation.

#### 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.

### **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 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](http://www.psychology.su.se). The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.