Syllabus
for course at advanced level
Higher cognitive functions
Högre kognitiva funktioner

Course code: PSMT55
Valid from: Spring 2022
Date of approval: 2016-12-20
Changed: 2021-04-27
Department: Department of Psychology
Main field: Psychology
Specialisation: A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Credits
7.5 Higher Education
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.
Revision approved by the Board of the Department of Psychology 2021-04-27.

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 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. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.