

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Psychology: History and theory of science
Psykologins historia och vetenskapsteori

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	PSMT50
Valid from:	Autumn 2019
Date of approval:	2016-12-20
Changed:	2016-12-20
Department	Department of Psychology
Main field:	Psychology
Specialisation:	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
MT50	Psychology: History and science	7.5

Course content

The course aims to provide a deeper understanding of different theoretical approaches in psychology, with reference to the history of philosophy and psychology. First, the course provides an overview of how modern psychology arose from questions that were formed in early Western philosophy and then developed in harmony with advances in the natural and social sciences. The course continues with a focus on various theoretical approaches in psychology: a) Positivism (knowledge can be gained through observable behaviours); b) Hermeneutics (understanding can be reached through the interpretation of human actions); c) Phenomenology (knowledge and understanding are derived from the content of our experience); and d) Constructivism (knowledge is seen as a construction rather than an absolute truth). The 'body-mind' relationship will also be discussed.

Learning outcomes

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

- on the basis of general knowledge of the history of philosophy and the theory of science, develop and discuss assumptions behind different types of psychological research;
- analyse how different ideas in psychology, other sciences and societal stages have shaped the development within specific areas of psychology;
- analyse and describe how differences and contradictions between different psychological theories depend on different approaches within philosophy and the theory of science;
- independently identify a defined problem relevant to the course and discuss this problem based on literature and their own arguments.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.

Mandatory components:

- a) Attendance at introductory lecture;
- b) Seminar/group discussion;
- c) Seminar/presentation of essays.

A supplementary assignment can be completed if a student has missed a mandatory component. 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 two written assignments: a number of essay questions (part 1) and an essay on a problem relevant to the areas covered in the course (part 2). The final grade will be based on the total score of these assignments; however, each examination task must receive a passing grade in order to pass the course. 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 receive written grading criteria and detailed instructions for the assignments 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, complete all mandatory assignments and meet the attendance requirements. 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:

The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade on the examination tasks is permitted, but the assignment must be submitted before the end of the course. Approved corrections of simple formatting errors are graded using the grades A-E, while approved corrections of flaws related to understanding will receive the grade 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 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.