

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Social behavior: Insights from evolutionary psychology**  
**Socialt beteende: Perspektiv från evolutionär psykologi**

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

<b>Course code:</b>	PSMT53
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2019
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2016-12-20
<b>Changed:</b>	2019-05-21
<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
MT53	Social behavior: Insights from evolutionary psychology	7.5

## Course content

The course discusses human social behaviour from an evolutionary perspective and provides a basic orientation in key theories and research within evolutionary social psychology. The following are some of the topics covered in the course:

- Central issues and controversies in evolutionary psychology;
- Prosocial behaviour and cooperation;
- Parenthood and family relations;
- Person perception and attraction;
- Social influence and group dynamics;
- Aggression;
- Intergroup relations and conflicts;
- The evolution of language.

The literature covers both human and animal studies, and the course also addresses the methods used to study social psychology phenomena based on evolutionary theory. The course focuses on discussions, analyses and critical reflections on current theories and research at literature seminars.

## Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:  
 -be able to describe, analyse and critically reflect on basic theories, concepts and research findings in the

field of evolutionary psychology that relates to human social behaviour;  
-be able to describe, analyse and critically reflect on basic methods and analyses in evolutionary social psychology;  
-have developed their ability to orally present, discuss and compile relevant theory and research in the above  
-mentioned field of research;  
-demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts.

### **Education**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.

Course requirements/Mandatory components:

(a) Participation in all seminars;

(b) Submission of two to three questions based on the literature for each seminar;

(c) Leadership of at least one seminar together with other students during the course. Students who have missed one or more of the mandatory seminars will be offered a chance to complete a supplementary assignment. 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 active participation in the seminars.

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 the seminar activities and questions, as well as meet the attendance requirements (100%).

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 not 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.