

# 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>	Spring 2022
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2016-12-20
<b>Changed:</b>	2021-04-27
<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 2020-04-28. 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

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:

1) understand, describe and critically reflect on aspects of evolutionary theory as applied in the context of social psychology.

2) describe, analyze and critically reflect on theoretical and empirical issues in evolutionary psychology with a focus on areas that relate to human social behaviour.

3) demonstrate skills required to participate in research, such as an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, orally in dialogue with others and in writing

## **Education**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.

Course requirements/Mandatory components:

(a) Submission of three to five questions based on the literature for each seminar

(b) Active participation in all seminars;

(c) Leadership of at least one seminar during the course.

(d) Review paper

Attendance in all seminars is mandatory with a maximum of two missed seminars. Students who have missed up to two of the mandatory seminars will be offered a chance to complete a supplementary assignment.

The language of instruction is English.

## **Forms of examination**

### **a. Forms of examination**

The examination is based on the completion of written seminar questions, active participation in every seminar, leading of 1-2 seminars, and a review paper.

Examination will be conducted in English and/or Swedish according to the course teacher's instructions.

If the student has a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation of pedagogical support, the examiner has the right to provide the student with an adjusted form of examination.

### **b. Grading scale**

The specific course grade is based to 50% on the seminar activities, and to 50% on the individually written review paper.

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 submit discussion questions to, actively participate in every seminar, and lead 1-2 seminars, and receive a grade of E or higher on the seminar activities and on the review paper.

### **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  
International two-year master's program in psychology (SIPSO), 120 credits

**Required reading**

A complete list of literature is available on the department website two months prior to course start.