

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Research Methods I**  
**Forskningsmetodik I**

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

<b>Course code:</b>	PSMT58
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2020-01-23
<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 2020-01-23

## 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
MT58	Research Methods I	7.5

## Course content

The aim of the course is to increase the participants' understanding of research methods, to provide the necessary skills to critically evaluate research results, and to provide training in how to define relevant and researchable research questions. Lectures and seminars cover the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods, as well as research ethics. Group exercises and individual assignments involve the critical analysis of research articles and the definition of a research question in relation to the current state of knowledge in a specific field of research.

The course covers the following topics:

- How to define a clear research question;
- Experimental and non-experimental research designs;
- Probability and statistical inference;
- Internal validity;
- Measurement and generalisability;
- Research ethics.

## Learning outcomes

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

- 1) understand and contribute to theoretical discussions on research methods, including ethical aspects of research and development work;
- 2) critically evaluate the credibility and generalisability of conclusions from empirical studies;
- 3) in written and oral presentations, summarise and evaluate the state of knowledge in a specific field of

research;

4) define a relevant research question that addresses a current knowledge gap, and convey these ideas in writing.

### **Education**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures, group exercises and seminars.

Course requirements/Mandatory components: Oral presentation of the written report at a seminar. Students who have not passed the oral presentation will be offered a chance to present at an extra seminar, or individually for the course teacher.

### **Forms of examination**

#### a. Forms of examination

The course is examined on the basis of a written examination and a written paper.

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

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

On the written paper, grades will be set according to a two-point scale:

G = Pass

F = Fail

#### 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 written examination, as well as a passing grade on the written report. In addition, all mandatory components must be fulfilled.

#### 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 regarding the written paper. Completing the assignment must follow instructions from the examiner.

### **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.

### **Required reading**

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