

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Forensic Psychology**  
**Rättspsykologi**

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

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Course code:</b>      | PS2RAT  |
| <b>Valid from:</b>       | Autumn 2023   |
| <b>Date of approval:</b> | 2020-03-24  |
| <b>Changed:</b>          | 2023-03-21  |
| <b>Department</b>        | Department of Psychology  |
| <b>Main field:</b>       | Psychology  |
| <b>Specialisation:</b>   | G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

## Decision

This course plan is defined by the department board at the Department of Psychology.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Psychology I, 30 credits (hp) with at least 22.5 credits completed, or a minimum of 22.5 credits from Biological psychology, 7.5 credits, Social psychology, 7.5 credits, Developmental psychology, 7.5 credits, Cognition, 7.5 credits, or equivalent courses.

## Course structure

| Examination code | Name                | Higher Education Credits |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2RAT             | Forensic Psychology | 7.5                      |

## Course content

The course provides an orientation in forensic psychology, the part of psychology that integrates the psychological knowledge area in the a legal and criminal context. The course provides in-depth theoretical and empirical knowledge regarding the evaluation and understanding of behaviors of witnesses, victims, and perpetrators in the context of crime. The course mainly concerns:

- Witnesses' ability to remember and communicate memories of criminal events
- Techniques for interviewing and interrogating suspects and witnesses, including children
- Reliability and credibility assessment of testimonies
- Line-ups
- Lie detection
- Forensic psychiatry
- Perspectives from victims of crime

## Learning outcomes

To pass the course, the student must be able to use theory and empirical findings from research in cognitive, developmental, social and personality psychology, to understand the role of these factors in a legal context. This involves the ability to:

- 1) Explain how children, adults, witnesses, victims and perpetrators experience, remember and talk about

- crimes, as well as explain the formation of false memories and false confessions.
- 2) Explain the consequences of crime from the perspective of victims of crime.
  - 3) Make assessments of (point out the strengths and weaknesses of) psychological investigative methodologies in legal contexts, such as interrogation methods and lie-detection tests.
  - 4) Describe and problematize forensic psychiatric assessments.
  - 5) Explain reasons behind entering and exiting violent-extremist organizations, including justifications of violence
  - 6) Explain risk factors for sexual offences and evaluate rehabilitation methods.

## **Education**

Teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Some teaching sessions can take place remotely, as shown in the course schedule.

The course contains three mandatory elements: a written report, an oral presentation of that report, and seminar attendance. Mandatory seminar sessions are indicated in the schedule and course guide. Missing a mandatory seminar can be compensated by means of a supplementary assignment specified by the examiner. Supplementary assignments must be submitted no later than as indicated by the examiner. A maximum of two mandatory seminars can be compensated with supplementary assignments. If the supplementary assignment is not submitted on time or if the student misses more than two mandatory seminars, the missed part may be retaken at a later course. If the written report, or revision of the written report, is not completed within the time specified by the examiner, the written report may be submitted the next time the course is held.

The course is held remotely or on campus as specified for each course. The main language of instructions is Swedish for the campus-based course, and English for the distance-based course.

See the course guide for more detailed information. The course guide is available on the course website no later than one month before the start of the course.

## **Forms of examination**

- a. Forms of examination: When the course is held on campus, the course is examined with an individual written classroom exam. When the course is held remotely, the course is examined with an individual oral exam. The examiner can decide to modify the form and structure of examinations for students with a certificate from Stockholm University with a recommendation for study support.
- b. Grading scale. Grading is appointed along a seven-point grading scale:  
A = Excellent B = Very good C = Good  
D = Satisfactory E = Sufficient  
Fx = Fail, some more work needed F = Fail, much more work needed
- c. Grading criteria. Students are notified of the grading criteria at the start of the course.
- d. Final grade. In order to pass the course, a minimum grade of E is required on the examination task, and completion of the mandatory elements.
- e. Failure. At least two examination opportunities should be offered during each semester when the course is held. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during a semester when the course is not held.
- f. Students who have received the grade Fx or F on an exam twice in a row by the same examiner have the right to have another examiner appointed for the next exam, unless there are special reasons against it. The petition should be made to the department board or the official appointed by the board. Students who have received the lowest grade E may not undergo a new examination for a higher grade.
- g. Supplementary tasks. Possibility to complete the grade Fx up to a passing grade is not offered on this course.

## **Interim**

When the course is discontinued, students have the right to be examined once per semester according to this syllabus, for the following three semesters.

## **Required reading**

Course literature is available on the course website no later than two months before the start of the course.