

Syllabus

for course at first level

Psychology I
Psykologi I

**30.0 Higher Education
Credits**
30.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	PS1122
Valid from:	Autumn 2008
Date of approval:	2007-06-12
Changed:	2008-05-30
Department	Department of Psychology
Subject	Psychology
Specialisation:	G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Decision

Psychology I, 30 credits, is ratified by the department board at the Department of Psychology, Stockholm University 12-06-2007.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Swedish upper secondary school course Mathematics B, or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1BIO	Biological Psychology	7.5
1KOG	Cognition	7.5
1SOC	Social Psychology	7.5
1UTV	Developmental Psychology	7.5

Course content

1. Social psychology, 7.5 credits

This module focuses on developing an understanding of the way people, know, think, cope, and react in the social reality. Different personality and social psychology theories will be presented for discussion in connection to themes dealing with attitudes and prejudice, gender differences, violence and aggression, disability, personality disorders, and organisational questions.

2. Biological psychology, 7.5 credits

This module will address central notions, theories and methods in biological psychology with special emphasis on neuropsychology. In this respect, the course concerns the biological basis for physical functions. The following five areas will be discussed, 1) nerve systems structure and function including functional neuroanatomy, 2) nerve system growth, 3) perception and action, 4) cognitive neuropsychology (including memory, awareness, and thought processes), and 5) regulative functions and emotions. Moreover, this course will give an orientation to clinical neuropsychology, the development of neuropsychology, and psychopharmacology.

3. Developmental psychology, 7.5 credits

Developmental psychology concerns peoples' development along a time-frame from young childhood to old age. Different aspects of development concern physical and cognitive change, but above all emotional and social aspects are emphasised. This course component takes, as a starting point, the assumption that people

develop in interplay with their environment; in a so called transactional process, where biological, intra-psychic and interpersonal factors integrate. Practise in writing accounts of scientific studies will also form a part of this module.

4. Cognition, 7.5 credits

This module concerns memory function, problem solving, and decision making, intelligence, language/language development, and creativity. General methodological problems and basic statistical procedures will be introduced. Practical laboratory work will be performed to illustrate cognitive psychological phenomenon, with the aim of providing an applied introduction to scientific problem formulation, method and report writing.

Learning outcomes

On completing this course a student will be able to

- Apply a scientific attitude and critically evaluate scientific theories and research findings.
- Discuss theory, methods, and results, together with their application in social psychology, biological psychology, developmental psychology, and cognition.
- Integrate the different course components with each other to gain an understanding of psychology as a whole and how different psychological perspectives can complement each other.

Education

Tuition will involve lectures, seminars, group discussions and personal supervision. Certain elements of this course are obligatory. Further information about obligatory elements will be provided in each module plan. As psychology rests on scientific grounds it is essential that students have an insight into the processes that generate new scientific knowledge within this field. In this respect, students are required to act as participants in studies and experiments conducted by researchers in the Department of Psychology. A requirement is that such participation extends to at least four hours during the course. Moreover, for students that intend to take part in interview seminars a requirement is that at least half an hour of the required four hours is spent as an interviewee before tuition starts. An orientation to psychology in terms of scientific methods and reasoning forms a common thread throughout the different modules.

Forms of examination

Assessment will be made by way of written reports, group work, laboratory reports and thematic work.

The adopted marking system is a 7-point goal related grading scheme with letters A to E denoting a pass and the letters Fx and F a fail.

A-Excellent
B-Very Good
C-Good
D-Satisfactory
E-Sufficient
Fx-Insufficient
F-Fail

The marks shall be goal-related, which means that the grades should reflect how well the student achieved the expected study results (course objectives) as detailed in the syllabus and respective module plan. Each module of the course is marked separately, which taken altogether comprise the final grade for the course. The principle is that the course grade constitutes a weighted average of the grades of the detailed modules of the course, i.e., the grade for every module is transformed to a five point scale (A=5p, B=4p....E=1p) and, is then, weighted with the other points from each module, after which an average score is calculated. This average score is rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 and upwards are rounded to the closest higher point) and transformed back to their related letters.

This calculation is expressed in the following formula; $\text{course grade} = (P1 \cdot K1 + P2 \cdot K2 + P3 \cdot K3 \dots) / (P1 + P2 + P3 \dots)$, where K1, K2 are the grades for the respective module (on the scale 1-5) and P1, P2 are the total available points for each module.

If certain elements in the modules are not graded the grade is calculated on the modules elements that are graded (given that 50% of the total points on the course are graded).

For students that do not pass by way of the ordinary test occasion, further examination may be arranged in close proximity to the failed examination. Students that do not pass after two attempts, on some of the modules, have the right to request a different tutor be appointed to grade the module. The request shall be

made to the director of studies responsible for the course.

Misc

The course aims to give basic knowledge in psychology. A large part of the course literature is in english. The course may not be included in a degree with another basic course i psychology. This course is not intended for students pursuing legitimacy as an authorized psychologist.

According to a descision made by the faculty board, 31-05-2007, when the course is not run or the content has changed substantially students have the right, once per term for a three term period, to be examined according to this syllabus.

Required reading

1. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, 7.5 credits

Borg, E., & Westerlund, J. (2006) Statistik för beteendevetare. Stockholm: Liber.

Myers, D.G. (2006/2008). Social Psychology. Ninth edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

2. BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY, 7.5 credits

Nyberg, L. (2002) Kognitiv neurovetenskap: studier av sambandet mellan hjärnaktivitet och mentala processer. Lund: studentlitteratur.

Passer, M.W., Smith, R.E. (2008). Psychology. The Science of Mind and Behavior. 4th ed. McGraw-Hill.

3. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, 7.5 credits

Berk, L-E. (2007) Development through the lifespan. Fourth edition. Boston: Pearson International Education.

Passer, M.W., Smith, R.E. (2008). Psychology. The Science of Mind and Behavior. 4th ed. McGraw-Hill.

4. COGNITION, 7.5 credits

Borg, E. & Westerlund, J. (2006) Statistik för beteendevetare. Stockholm: Liber.

Passer, M.W., Smith, R.E. (2008). Psychology. The Science of Mind and Behavior. 4th ed. McGraw-Hill.