

# Syllabus

for course at first level

**Forensic Psychology I**  
**Rättspsykologi I**

**15.0 Higher Education  
Credits**  
**15.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	PS1155
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2008
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2007-06-12
<b>Changed:</b>	2008-06-10
<b>Department</b>	Department of Psychology
<b>Subject</b>	Psychology
<b>Specialisation:</b>	G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

## Decision

Forensic Psychology I, 15 credits, is ratified by the Board at the Department of Psychology, Stockholm University; 12-06-2007.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Basic eligibility.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1551	Basic Course	6
1552	Applied Issues	6
1553	Special Work	3

## Course content

### 1. Basic course, 6 credits

From a forensic psychology perspective, this module aims to provide a basic orientation in perception, memory, social cognition and developmental psychology. The module will concern basic theoretical knowledge and empirical studies of attention and memory, with a focus on the relation between memory and emotion. Further, the module deals with central questions in social perception and their application in the legal system, as well as various models of communication. In addition, this module includes an orientation in developmental psychology with an emphasis on antisocial behaviour from a social/biological-psychological perspective.

### 2. Applied issues, 6 credits

This module addresses the ability of adults and children to work with and communicate memories of traumatic events, both in terms of genuine and simulated amnesia and the difference between false and genuine memories. In addition, we shall consider interview techniques in relation to police interrogation, including witness confrontation and methods for judging credibility. Emphasis is placed on victims of crime, and issues surrounding the participation and expertise of psychologists in the criminal justice system.

### 3. Special work, 3 credits

Independent, in-depth study of material related to the course chosen in discussion with the tutor.

## Learning outcomes

On completing this course a student will be able to

- Grasp basic theoretical, empirical and methodological concepts in forensic psychology; for example, aspects of forensic psychology that brings psychological knowledge in law and criminal politics together.
- From a clinical and scientific viewpoint understand the treatment and evaluation of witnesses', victims' and perpetrators' behaviour in the context of crime.

### **Education**

Tuition will involve lectures and seminars. These are not compulsory elements, but presence is recommended strongly, since the material covered in the lectures and seminars will form the basis of the written examination.

### **Forms of examination**

Assessment will be made by way of a written report, group work, laboratory report and thematic work. More precise details will be given during the course.

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 grades 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 plans. Each module is graded 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 modules, 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 module 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 occasions, 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**

According to a decision 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**

Christianson, Sven Å. & Wentz, G. (2002). Brott och minne. Stockholm: Natur och Kultur.  
Granhag, P.A. & Christianson, Sven Å. (red)(2008). Handbok i rättspsykologi. Stockholm: Liber.