

Syllabus

for course at first level

Forensic Psychology II
Rättspsykologi II

**15.0 Higher Education
Credits**
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	PS2255
Valid from:	Autumn 2007
Date of approval:	2007-06-12
Department	Department of Psychology
Subject	Psychology
Specialisation:	G1F - First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

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

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Forensic Psychology I or equivalent

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
2256	Psychological Aspects of Criminality	6
2257	Use of Psychological Knowledge in Crime Investigations	6
2258	Crime and Psychology in the Courts, Media and Public	3

Course content

Psychological Aspects of Criminality, 6 credits

This module concerns psychological aspects of crime and concerns psychological knowledge of criminal behaviour, the consequences of criminal behaviour, and theories about who commits crime. The module also covers recidivism, psychological consulting for the legal system and crime prevention. Further discussion will be aimed at elucidating psychological issues concerning crime victims. In addition, this module will include an orientation to "therapeutic jurisprudence" i.e. human rights philosophies and praxis that aim to increase the social and psychological wellbeing of those touched by crime.

Use of Psychological Knowledge in Crime Investigations, 6 credits

The second module focuses on the role of psychological knowledge in criminal investigations. Interview methodology is a central topic. This module illuminates strategies and effects of different interview techniques with witnesses and victims of crime as well as the interrogation of suspects. This module extends the subject area of Rättspsykologi I regarding the investigation of sexual assault on children, and other relevant issues surrounding children as victims of crime. Circumstances underlying false confessions will be discussed; along with different methods of profiling perpetrators.

Crime and Psychology in the Courts, Media and Public, 3 credits.

This module concerns those psychological affects associated with the reporting of criminal cases in news media; how fear of crime is spread and perpetuated, and the effect media exposure can have on the individual

and society. Selected media debates will be studied concerning specific psychological phenomena and the role of psychological expertise in police investigations and court judgements.

Learning outcomes

On completing this course a student will be able to

- In broad terms, describe psychological aspects of criminality.
- Explain how scientifically grounded psychological knowledge can contribute to the improvement of criminal inquiries.
- Critically evaluate and discuss different controversial forensic psychological phenomena and their relevance in forensic context.

Education

The course comprises three components

- 1.Psychological Aspects of Criminality, 6 credits
- 2.Use of Psychological Knowledge in Crime Investigations, 6 credits
- 3.Crime and Psychology in the Courts, Media and Public 3 credits

Tuition will involve lectures, seminars and applied exercises. Certain elements are compulsory. Further information about compulsory elements will be provided at the start of the course by the course leader.

Forms of examination

Assessment will be made by way of written reports, group work, laboratory reports and thematic work. More detailed information 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 component course (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, S.Å (Red.)(1996). Rättspsykologi: Den forensiska psykologia i Sverige – en kunskapsöversikt. Stockholm. Natur och Kultur (approx. 150 p.)

Pogrebin, Mark (2004). About criminals. London: Sage Publications.

Wrightsman, L.S.& Fulero, S.M. (2005). Forensic Psychology (2nd ed.). UK. Wadsworth.

Other articles and further reading will be detailed during the course.