Course syllabus for

Degree project in Psychology, 15 credits

Examensarbete i Psykologi, 15 hp
This course syllabus is valid from spring 2014.
Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:
Spring2010 , Spring2012 , Spring2014 , Spring2015 , Spring2016 , Spring2018 , Autumn2018 , Spring2019 , Spring2020 , Spring2021 , Spring2023 , Spring2024

Course code	2PS013
Course name	Degree project in Psychology
Credits	15 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Psychology
Level	G2 - First cycle 2
Grading scale	Fail (U) or pass (G)
Department	Department of Clinical Neuroscience
Decided by	Programnämnden för Psykologprogrammet
Decision date	2009-05-15
Revised by	Programme Committee 8
Last revision	2013-11-05
Course syllabus valid from	Spring 2014

Specific entry requirements

To be eligible to advance onto this course, students must have no less than 120 course credits from semester 1-4 of the Study Programme in Psychology as well as at least 15 course credits from semester 5.

Objectives

The objective of the course is for students to enhance their knowledge of psychology and psychological methods by independently plan and execute an empirical thesis under supervision for a 15 credits thesis in the field of psychology.

On completion of the course, the students should be able to:
• search scientific databases, extract relevant publications and review, evaluate and summarise publications of relevance to the content of their thesis
• identify and formulate a point of scientific inquiry in the field of psychology with respect to the resources and time available
• under supervision, independently define, analyse and discuss study design and method in relation to

the point of inquiry, and with respect to the prevailing ethical rules
• under supervision, independently locate, collect, evaluate and interpret relevant information in relation to the point of inquiry
• in a written formate, under supervision, independently compile, analyse and interpret the data collected in relation to the point of inquiry, using academic language and the scientific praxis applied in the field of psychology
•wWithin the constraints of an academic seminar, independently discuss, critically evaluate and make cases for or against, respectively and where appropriate, the content of their own and other students' theses on the grounds of their relevance to the subject and of methodological and ethical considerations
• demonstrate an ability to comply with accepted scientific practice and ethical rules; integrity in their research and documentation; and an awareness of the responsibilities of research involving human subjects
• discuss and understand the importance of collaboration in attaining a high level of quality in all parts of the research process

Content

At the start of the course, students select one of the thesis subjects offered in the field of psychology. Available thesis subjects are decided by the examiner in consultation with a thesis committee, and are then sent for approval to the research forum of the Study Programme in Psychology. Possible subjects include:
• conducting, analysing and reporting of psychological experiments
• analysing and reporting a particular set of data from an established research project
• psychometric evaluations of psychological instruments
• systematic reviews of recently published psychological research
• preform a secondary analysis of published data on the basis of a new point of inquiry

The course begins with establishing a project plan that lays out the general structure, content and timing of the work to be done. At this stage, the scope and time plan of the thesis is established. Students are also given practice searching scientific literature in the library's databases. Students subsequently proceed to carry out their own thesis project under supervision, during which time they have opportunities to test and develop knowledge and methodological skills of relevance to their subject. The course concludes with an examination seminar, during which the project papers are debated.

Teaching methods

The course includes an introductory lecture on writing a project paper and literature searches. Students compose their thesis in pairs. Because one of the course objectives is to train collaboration, individual theses will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances. Thesis projects are conducted under supervision and in a respondent/opponent format.

The thesis subjects are presented by the research forum no later than at the start of term (i.e., about ten weeks before course start), by which time each proposed subject is to be documented with a defined problem area, key reading list, methodology and specific learning objectives.

During the first few days of the course, the students and their supervisors delimit and define the subject and draw up a time plan. The students are then to plan, conduct and report an independent scientific project under supervision

Completed projects are then reported in a scientific thesis to be debated with an opponent during a concluding seminar. Participation in these thesis seminars is compulsory and entails active presence at other students' seminars and opposing another scientific thesis.

Examination

Achieved learning objectives are examined through presentation of the thesis during a thesis seminar

where the thesis, the defence and the public discussion and examination are evaluated by the examiner. The various parts are awarded the following grades: a) Thesis: Fail (U) or Pass (G) b) Respondent performance (defence and discussion of own thesis): Fail (U) or Pass (G) c) Opponent performance (for another thesis): Fail (U) or Pass (G)

Supervisors assess whether the thesis are able to satisfy the criteria for a Pass grade and for submission for public discussion at the seminar. The thesis presented at the seminar form the basis of the students' grades. To pass the course a whole, students must obtain a Pass on all three parts and must have taken active part at three of the thesis seminars advertised during the course.

In the event of a student obtaining a Fail grade for respondent or opponent performance (and in the event of absence), written supplementary information may be demanded by the examiner. In the event of a student obtaining a Fail grade for the thesis, he or she will receive a list of rectifying steps to take for it to qualify for a Pass. Submission dates for revised thesis are the same as the accepted examination resit dates during the following term.

Transitional provisions

The transitional regulations comply with KI's local guidelines for examinations.

Other directives

If the thesis project is delayed (more than 1 semester from the start of the course), the students cannot expect to be supervised by their original supervisor, which may impinge upon their ability to conclude their thesis project in accordance with the original plan.

Course evaluation is performed per KI's local guidelines. Students are informed of outcomes and any measures taken via the course website.

Literature and other teaching aids

Compulsory literature

Sternberg, Robert J.; Dietz-Uhler, Beth.; Leach, Chris.

The psychologist's companion : a guide to scientific writing for students and researchers

4. ed. : Cambridge, U.K. ;a New York : Cambridge University Press, 2003. - vii, 301 s.
ISBN:0-521-52806-2 (pbk.) LIBRIS-ID:9680671
URL: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/description/cam032/2003043595.html
Library search

Vetenskapsrådet

CODEX. Regler och riktlinjer för forskning. Tillgänglig [online]

2008
URL: Länk

Riktlinjer för bedömning av examensarbeten. Fastställd 2010-09-10 Dnr: 4603/10-300

Styrelsen för utbildning, 2010
URL: Länk till dokument

All compulsory methodological literature from previous courses included in the Study Programme in Psychology.

Articles recommended by the supervisors.

Supplementary literature

Bem, D.J

Writing a review article for Psychological Bulletin

Page 172-177. The article is included along with about 30 additional articles in the most recent or earlier editions of Kazdin, A, E (Ed). Methodological issues and strategies in clinical research (3 ed), Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

Karolinska Institutets Bibliotek (2009). Skriva referenser enligt APA systemet.

Länk: http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2516&l=sv

Karolinska Institutets Bibliotek (2009). Värdera och presentera vetenskap. Länk:

http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1622&l=sv

Karolinska Institutets bibliotek (2009)

Hitta böcker, tidskrifter & artiklar

Kazdin, A.E

Preparing and Evaluating Research Reports

Page 228-237. The article is included along with about 30 additional articles in the most recent or earlier editions of Kazdin, A, E (Ed). Methodological issues and strategies in clinical research (3 ed), Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

Kazdin, Alan E. (ed)

Methodological issues & strategies in clinical research

3rd ed. : Washington, DC : American Psychological Association, c2003. - xix, 913 p.
ISBN:1-55798-958-3 LIBRIS-ID:9326851
Library search

Kazdin, Alan E.

Research design in clinical psychology

4. uppl. : Boston, MA : Allyn and Bacon, cop. 2003 - xvii, 637 s.
ISBN:0-205-33292-7 LIBRIS-ID:8835326
Library search

Rosenthal, R

Writing meta-analytic reviews: Psychological Bulletin, 118
Svenska skrivregler

3., [utök.] utg. : Stockholm : Liber, 2008 - 263, [1] s.
ISBN:978-91-47-08460-9 LIBRIS-ID:10935499
URL: http://www.liber.se/productimage/large/4708460o.jpg
Library search

Wilkinson, L

Statistical methods in psychology journals: : Guidelines and explanations

54 :

Page 594-604. The article is included along with about 30 additional articles in the most recent or earlier editions of Kazdin, A, E (Ed). Methodological issues and strategies in clinical research (3 ed), Washington, DC: American Psychological Association