

Stockholm University
Department of Psychology
International two-year master's program in psychology

The history of psychology and philosophy of science (7.5 credits)

Leader of the course

Pehr Granqvist

Aims and objectives

This course aims at a deepened understanding of different perspectives in the philosophy of science, with particular relevance for psychology. The course comprises three modules. The first module provides a *historical overview* of how contemporary academic psychology has grown from philosophical thinking since antiquity and developed successively along the progress in the natural and social sciences and the humanities. The second module addresses central concepts and distinctions within the *philosophy of science* generally, with particular emphasis on theories of scientific development. The third and final module focuses on the *philosophy of psychology*, including nomothetic versus idiographic approaches to psychological knowledge, the psychology of science, and philosophical problems with special relevance for psychology (e.g, the mind-body problem, the question of free will, the role of values).

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students are expected to be able to:

- on the basis of general knowledge of the history of philosophy and the theory of science, develop and discuss assumptions behind different types of psychological research;
- analyse how different ideas in psychology, other sciences and societal changes have shaped developments within specific areas of psychology;
- analyse and describe how differences and contradictions between different psychological theories relate to different approaches within philosophy and the theory of science;
- independently identify a problem relevant to the course and discuss this problem based on literature and their own arguments.

Teaching

The course consists of 9 lectures, 3 discussion seminars, and one seminar in which students present their written assignments. Active student participation is required in the seminars, which are mandatory.

Examination

Examination of the course is based on two assignments:

Assignment 1. A number of essay-questions, reflecting the first three learning outcomes (about 1000 words in total). The essay questions will be made available about two weeks prior to deadline.

Assignment 2. An essay, ‘paper’ around a problem or question relevant for the area of the course, reflecting the last learning outcome (about 2000 words). The problem/question to be discussed in the paper is selected by the student. It may but does not have to be relevant for the student’s own area of research. The ‘papers’ will be presented and discussed in a seminar at the end of the course.

Grading

The total examination, consisting of two parts, will be graded on a seven-point ECT-scale (A, B, C, D, E Fx, F). The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

Examination assignment 1: Essay-questions.

Relevance for the actual question.

Link to the course-literature or other relevant literature.

Clarity and ‘main thread’ in the reasoning

Quality and maturity of the reflection and reasoning.

Examination assignment 2: ‘Paper’. As for the essay-questions but more weight is assigned to the structure, reflection, and argumentation in the written composition and the presentation at the seminar.

Course evaluation

An opportunity is offered for evaluation of the course at the end of the course.

Course literature

- Lundh, L-G, Nilsson, A. (2018). *Psykologin som vetenskap: Vetenskapsteoretiska och forskningsmetodologiska grunder*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (L&N)*
- Leahey, T., H. (2018/2013). *A history of psychology: Pearson new international edition – from Antiquity to modernity (8th/7th edition)*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis/Pearson Higher education (Leahey)

* For non-Swedish speaking students Lundh and Nilsson may be replaced by Benton, T., & Craib, I. (2011). *Philosophy of social science (2nd ed.)*. New York: Palgrave.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory at the introduction lecture and the seminars.

Instructors

Course leader and teachers

PG Pehr Granqvist pehr.granqvist@psychology.su.se

JGB Joel Gruneau Brulin joel.gruneau.brulin@psychology.su.se

Code PSMT50 Name: Psychology: History and science Course leader: Pehr Granqvist							
Datum	Time	Teaching form	Mandatory?	Contents	Reading instructions	Instructor	Hall
2022-08-29	13:00-16:00	L	x	Course intro + lecture 1 (Psychology's precursors in the history of ideas: Antiquity-renaissance)	Leahey, pages 1-152	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 38
2022-09-01	10:00-12:00	L		Lecture 2 (Psychology's precursors in the history of ideas: Enlightenment - the birth of psychology)	Leahey, pages 152-217	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 19
2022-09-05	12:00-14:00	L		Lecture 3 (The history of psychology I)	Leahey, pages 217-485	Joel Gruneau Brulin	Sal 13
2022-09-08	10:00-12:00	L		Lecture 4 (The history of psychology II)	Leahey, pages 217-485	Joel Gruneau Brulin	Sal 38
2022-09-12	13:00-15:00	S	x	Seminar 1 (Psychology's history and prehistory)		Pehr Granqvist	Sal 19
2022-09-13	10:00-12:00	L		Lecture 5 (General philosophy of science I)	L&N, pages 13-121	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 9
2022-09-21	13:00-15:00	L		Lecture 6 (Theories of scientific development)	L&N, pages 127-225, 312-314	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 28
2022-09-22	13:00-15:00	S	x	Seminar 2 (General philosophy of science)		Pehr Granqvist	Sal 38
2022-09-26	13:00-15:00	L		Lecture 7 (Psychology as a science + handing out essay Qs and written/individual assignment)	L&N, pages 335-387, 413-454	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 32
2022-09-29	10:00-12:00	L		Lecture 8 (Hermeneutics and phenomenology)	L&N, pages 227-285, 389-411	Joel Gruneau Brulin	Sal 14
2022-10-03	13:00-15:00	L		Lecture 9 (View of mankind, the role of values, psychology of science)	L&N, pages 285-330, 413-454	Pehr Granqvist	Sal 30
2022-10-06	13:00-15:00	S	x	Seminar 3 (Psychology as a science)		Pehr Granqvist	Sal 22

2022-10-13			x	Handing in essay Qs			
2022-10-20	10:00-12:00 13:00-15:00	S	x	Seminar 4 (Presentation of individual assignment)		Pehr Granqvist	Sal 38
2022-10-24			x	Handing in of witten assignment		Pehr Granqvist	