

# STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology



## Syllabus

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### **The history of psychology and philosophy of science**

7.5 Credits

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Code: PSPVF01

Finalized by: Prefekt vid Psykologiska institutionen, 2024-08-26

Valid from: Autumn semester 2024 (2024-09-02)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules          The history of psychology and philosophy of science, 7.5 Credits

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## **1. Entry requirements**

Admitted to doctoral studies in psychology.

## **2. Learning outcomes**

In order to pass the course, the student is 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.

### **3. Content**

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).

### **4. Mandatory exams**

Compulsory participation in four seminars.

### **5. Forms of examination**

Examination on the course takes place through a written home exam and a written essay/ paper that will also be presented at a seminar at the end of the course.

### **6. Form of instruction**

The teaching consists of lectures, discussion seminars, and presentation seminars.