



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Police Work

1PA200 Grundkurs i rättspsykologi, 15 högskolepoäng

1PA200 Basic Forensic Psychology, 15 credits

### **Main field of study**

Police Work

### **Subject Group**

Other Subjects within Social Science

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2023-06-26

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2024

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for university studies.

## Objectives

### **Module 1: Law and psychology, 4.5 credits**

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- describe the key concepts of psychology of memory, psychology of perception, psychology of development and social psychology and discuss their relevance to criminal and asylum investigations,
- describe key aspects of Swedish legislation in relation to criminal investigations (such as how and when interrogations may be held) and criminal and procedural law.

### **Module 2: Forensic psychology, 10.5 credits**

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- define the discipline of forensic psychology and account for its main subfields, and describe how research in forensic psychology is carried out,
- account for the key aspects of reliability assessments and discuss the application and practical relevance to criminal and asylum investigations,

- account for commonly applied interrogation and interview techniques and discuss the application in relation to criminal investigations.

## Content

### **Module 1: Law and psychology, 4.5 credits**

Module 1 provides the students an introduction to the key aspects of criminal and procedural law, particularly focusing on procedural law. The students are also introduced to some of the main subfields in psychology, such as psychology of perception, cognitive psychology, and social psychology - subfields which in combination with legal contexts form the discipline of forensic psychology.

### **Module 2: Forensic psychology, 10.5 credits**

Module 2 introduces the students to some of the main subfields in forensic psychology, such as psychology of development and psychology of the courtroom. The students will for instance learn about the most common interrogation and interview techniques used in Sweden, and about perspectives of psychology in relation to evaluation of evidence. The focus is placed on criminal investigations but asylum investigations are also looked into to some extent. The students are also introduced to related disciplines (such as criminology) and to some of the research methods frequently applied in research into forensic psychology.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars.

## Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Examination of the objectives in **Module 1: Law and Psychology** takes place by means of a written exam comprising 4 credits, and by participating in a seminar comprising 0.5 credits.

Examination of the objectives in **Module 2: Forensic Psychology** takes place by means of a written exam comprising 10 credits and by participating in a seminar comprising 0.5 credits.

The written exam is assessed by the grades of Fail, Pass or Pass with Distinction. The seminars are assessed by the grades of Fail or Pass.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, the course objectives must be attained.

For a grade of Pass with Distinction in the entire course, it is required that the student receives the grade of Pass with Distinction for the written exam in module 1 as well as module 2.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

## Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course

as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

### Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1KR120 Investigative Psychology 1, 7.5 credits, and 1KR220 Investigative Psychology 2, 7.5 credits

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Heuman, Lars (latest edition). *Process- och straffrätt för juridisk översikt kurs*. Stockholm: Norstedts Juridik. (Ca. 90 p.)

Holt, Nigel, Bremner, Andy, Sutherland, Ed, Vliek, Michael, Passer, Michael & Smith, Roland (2019). *Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behaviour*. Fourth edition. McGraw Hill. ISBN: 9780077189624. (Ca. 300 p.)

Howitt, Dennis (2022). *Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology*. 7th edition. London: Pearson. ISBN: 9781292295787. (Ca. 600 p.)

Kronkvist, Ola (latest edition). *Polisförhör. Metoderna, forskningen och lagen*. Malmö: Gleerups. (Ca. 225 p.)

Research papers or other kinds of texts are also included and provided by the department, (ca. 100 p.)