



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Police Work

1PU25U Förhørs- och utredningsmetodik, 7.5 credits

Investigative Interviewing

### **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 2020-09-02

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements. Basic training in Tullverket's (the Swedish Customs) national investigation concept and investigative interviewing experience.

## Objectives

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

- by the use of the PEACE model of investigative interviewing and within the scope of the Swedish Custom's investigative activities, plan and conduct information gathering, legally secure investigations/interviews based on forensic psychology research and best practice,
- identify, describe and discuss communicative as well as strategic challenges and the associated solutions in the interview room based on forensic psychology research and best practice,
- apply and discuss evaluation of evidence, partly concerning combining different kinds of evidence and partly concerning the required level of proof in criminal cases, regarding assessing what kind of evidence that leads to the so called burden of explanation for the suspect,
- apply different interview and communication related techniques, such as active listening, silence, mirroring, different kinds of questions and summaries at interviews,

- in a well-founded manner, describe their own investigative interview approach,
- analyse and critically evaluate investigative interviewing and the associated content for their own individual skills enhancement.

## Content

The course looks into basic and advanced elements within the scope of the Swedish Custom's mission concerning investigation of crimes occurring against the legislation in force. Specifically, the course aims at developing the participants' knowledge of and skills in interrogation and investigative methodology focusing on investigative interviews with suspects.

The course also integrates research within the field of behavioural science, focusing on memory, interhuman relations and communication during the interview. Based on an applied investigative interview structure - the PEACE model - interview techniques are discussed that involve overall as well as specific strategies for optimum information gathering, including the strategic use of evidence as well as an understanding of the significance of active listening. The course is also intended to give the participants increased personal insight into their own interview approach. Evaluation of evidence and required level of proof in criminal cases are discussed, focusing on combining forensic and other kinds of evidence, and the type of evidence that requires that the suspect explains himself, which entails the so called burden of explanation. Furthermore, different aspects of the rule of law are also looked into, including how a hypothesis-based investigation may be conducted and how various bias (human errors) may influence the investigation.

## Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place through seminars, lectures and practical application with elements of problem-based methodology.

## Examination

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

Examination of the course takes place by means of three tests consisting of one individual written assignment, one individual self-evaluation assignment of their own investigative interviews, and participation in four integrated practical exercises completed in groups.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, all three tests must be assessed as Pass.

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.

## Required Reading and Additional Study Material

### Required reading

Dahlman, Christian. (2018). *Beviskraft: Metod för bevisvärdering i brottmål*. Stockholm: Norstedts Juridik, (351 p.) ISBN: 9789139021278.

Kronkvist, Ola. (2017). *Polisförhör: Metoderna, forskningen och lagen*. Malmö: Gleerups Utbildning. (240 p.) ISBN: 9789140692191.

Scientific publications comprising approximately 70 pages are also included. Provided by the department.