



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Police Work

1PU39U Förhörsmetodik med inriktning på brott mot barn, 15 högskolepoäng

Forensic interviewing of child abuse victims, 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 2019-09-20

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- describe the basics of structured child forensic interview techniques
- independently hold a forensic interview with a child and analyse the interview by the use of a feedback manual
- in consultation with the person in charge of the preliminary investigation, plan the interview in a strategic and detailed manner, taking into consideration the mental health and physical conditions of the child or youth
- on the basis of the knowledge of children's development, treat every child according to their individual level
- analyse information and conduct an evaluation of evidence obtained through the interview, on the basis of legal knowledge and reasoning about reliability
- account for and apply the legal rules and procedures that concern crimes against children, in an impartial, empathetic and legally secure manner
- critically evaluate and discuss their own methods and make an assessment of their own individual interview approach, including strengths as well as weaknesses.

Content

The course is focused on crimes against children, on the basis of scientific knowledge of the field concerning child forensic interviews and is aimed at increasing the competence in holding forensic interviews with children, while taking into consideration the special difficulties and demands that such interviews entail. The emphasis is placed on efficient interview techniques, where the use of unique avatar based forensic interview training provides the students with the opportunity to experience realistic exercises of child forensic interviews in a web-based environment. The course also discusses the important collaboration that must take place with other actors in this field in order to ensure that the child perspective is met in the multidisciplinary context of a child forensic interview. Relevant legislation concerning cases involving children is also looked into during the course.

The course contains the following elements:

- Barnahus (child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multi-agency centre for child victims and witnesses)
- Child forensic interview techniques
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children's ability to communicate
- Children's memory
- Psychological research on child witnesses
- Evaluation of evidence
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Procedural law: preliminary investigation where the injured party is a child
- Sexual assault
- Criminal law: Sexual offence and violation of integrity offence
- Credibility assessments
- Developmental psychology

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place mainly in the form of practical avatar based interview training, lectures, seminars, group work, individual work and assignments to be completed through the web-based distance learning forum where teachers are available as support. Compulsory component: Forensic interview training.

Examination

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

Examination of the course takes place by means of a written take-home exam. In order to receive a grade of Pass, the intended learning outcomes of the course must be attained.

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 has the right 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

Hwang, Philip. & Nilsson, Björn. (2019). *Utvecklingspsykologi*. Stockholm: Natur och kultur, (376 p.) ISBN 9789127130746.

Ponnert, Lina. (Ed). (2018) *Utredningsarbete i den sociala barnvården*. Malmö: Gleerups Utbildning AB, (20 p.) ISBN: 9789151100746.

Johansson, Susanna., Stefansen, Kari., Bakketeig, Elisiv., & Kaldal, Anna. (2018). *Collaborating against child abuse: Exploring the nordic barnahus model*. Palgrave Macmillan, (384 p.) ISBN: 9783319863955. Available on the Internet.

Kronkvist, Ola. (2016). *Polisförhör. Metoderna, forskningen och lagen*. Malmö: Gleerup, (240 p.) ISBN 9789140692191.

Poole, Debra. Anne. (2016). *Interviewing children: The science of conversation in forensic contexts*. Washington, DC, US: American Psychological Association, (232 p.) ISBN: 9781433822155.

Åklagarmyndigheten Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg. (2019). *Brott mot barn–Åklagarens barnhandbok*. (100 p.) Available on the Internet.

Additional statutory texts and compendiums, approx. 400 pages.