UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH

COURSE SYLLABUS

Consciousness and Its Neural Basis A1N

7.5 credits

Course code: KU722A
Version number: 9
Valid from: 1 January 2026
Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Bioscience
Date of ratification: 22 May 2025

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Consciousness and Its Neural Basis A1N (Medvetandet och dess neurala bas A1N). It comprises 7.5 credits and is a second-cycle course. The level of progression is A1N.

The course is a part of the main field of study in Cognitive Neuroscience. The disciplinary domain of the course is Natural Sciences.

2. Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires a passed course KU538G Bachelor Degree Project in Cognitive Neuroscience G2E (or equivalent).

A further requirement is proof of skills in English, equivalent of studies at upper secondary level in Sweden, known as English 6 or English level 2. This is normally demonstrated by means of an internationally recognized test, e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, or an equivalent.

3. Course content

The course introduces the study of consciousness and its neural basis. It involves in-depth conceptual theoretical study, as well as reviews of some of the philosophical issues connected to the topic. In addition, the course offers an inside perspective into the world of research in the cognitive neuroscience of consciousness, through a focus on the major lines of consciousness research at our own department in Skövde.

4. Objectives

After completed course the student should be able to:

- review and critically analyse current cognitive neuroscientific theories of consciousness and explain the progress that has been made on these questions,
- review the neural basis of consciousness,
- review the philosophical problems discussed in consciousness research, critically analyse the problems that occur when trying to empirically study the phenomenon of consciousness and measure its various states,
- define and analyse some recent important criticism of the research, methods and result of the cognitive neuroscientific study of consciousness, and
- define the major lines of research and major research questions and publications of the Consciousness and Cognitive Neuroscience research group at the University of Skövde, and explain the theoretical, methodological, historical and philosophical background of this research.

5. Examination

The course is graded A (Excellent), B (Very good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory), E (Sufficient) or F (Fail).

A final grade of the course is only issued when both the examination parts have been passed and is determined by a weighted average of the grades for the examination parts. The average value is rounded to the nearest integer (half rounded up) and translated into a final grade of the course.

The examinations of the course consist of the following modes of assessment:

- **Written assignments**
  5 credits, grades: A/B/C/D/E/F
- **Oral presentation**
  2.5 credits, grades: A/B/C/D/E/F

Students with a permanent disability who have been approved for directed educational support may be offered adapted modes of assessment.

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching is comprised of lectures and seminars/group discussions.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Revonsuo, A. (2010). *Consciousness: The Science of Subjectivity* (1st ed). Psychology Press. ISBN 9781841697260.

Revonsuo, A. (2009). *Inner Presence: Consciousness as a Biological Phenomenon*. MIT Press. ISBN 0262513412.

Velmans, M. & Schneider, S. (2006). *The Blackwell Companion to Consciousness*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd. ISBN 9781405160001.

Scientific articles as specified by the course instructor.

8. Student influence

Student influence in the course is ensured by means of course evaluation. The students are informed about the results of the evaluation and potential measures that have been taken or are planned, based on the course evaluation.

9. Additional information

Further information about the course, as well as national and local governing documents for higher education, is available on the website of the University of Skövde.