UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH

COURSE SYLLABUS

Seminars in Cognitive Neuroscience A1N

7.5 credits

Course code: KU728A
Version number: 1
Valid from: 1 January 2027
Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Bioscience
Date of ratification: 25 March 2026

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Seminars in Cognitive Neuroscience A1N (Seminarier i kognitiv neurovetenskap 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

This advanced seminar provides a focused, in-depth exploration of selected subfields in cognitive neuroscience, informed by the faculty's specialized research expertise. The course is structured around key research themes in cognitive neuroscience, guiding students through a critical examination of the most significant theories, empirical findings, and methodological approaches that define these areas. Particular attention is given to how well dominant theoretical models are supported by current empirical evidence. Through a combination of lectures and seminars, students actively engage with primary research to build a comprehensive understanding of the latest developments in the field. Structured support for information literacy and academic research skills, including systematic literature search strategies, equips students to navigate and critically evaluate scholarly literature at an advanced level. This literature work forms the foundation for a written assignment in the form of an integrative review.

This scientific exploration is complemented by critical discussions of broader contemporary issues in the field, such as the socio-ethical dimensions of cognitive neuroscience research, public perceptions of the field, controversies within the scientific community, and the evolving role of cognitive neuroscience in modern society. The aim is to equip students with both specialized scientific knowledge and the critical perspective necessary to contextualize their own research and contribute thoughtfully to ongoing scholarly and public conversations.

4. Objectives

After completed course the student should be able to:

- design and execute a systematic literature search to construct a robust body of evidence for an integrative review on a selected topic in cognitive neuroscience,
- analyze the relationship between theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence to assess how findings confirm, contradict, or extend dominant models within selected subfields of cognitive neuroscience,
- critically evaluate the principal theories, key findings, and challenges within selected subfields of cognitive neuroscience, and
- critically reflect on socio-ethical controversies in current cognitive neuroscience research, formulate a reasoned position, and defend it in an academic debate.

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 all the examination parts have been passed.

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

- **Essay**
  4.5 credits, grades: A/B/C/D/E/F (determines the final grade)
- **Seminars**
  1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Oral presentation**
  1.5 credits, grades: G/U

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 seminars and lectures.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Michael S. Gazzaniga & George R. Mangun (2014). *The Cognitive Neurosciences* (5th ed.). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. ISBN 9780262027779.

Scientific articles selected by teachers on the course.

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

The content of the course corresponds completely or partially with the following course(s) and cannot be included in the required credits of a degree qualification:

- KU721A - Seminars in Cognitive Neuroscience A1N 7.5 credits

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.