

Emne rapport PSYK 207 lærings- og atferdspsykologi («Learning and Behavior»)

Teaching forms and mandatory requirements

As in 2014, different teaching forms were utilized in the module: Apart from two joint orientation meetings (together with PSYK 208 at the beginning and at the end of the lecture series), there were 9 lectures that introduced and discussed basic as well as higher principles of learning and their applications in real-life or clinical settings. To give the students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of two key topics, there were four seminars on addiction and one practical on classical and instrumental conditioning (“Sniffy, the virtual rat”). The mandatory requirements for the final exam comprised two reports as well as passing two multiple choice tests that covered significant parts of the literature. The latter was further intended to provide preparation help for the exam.

Literature

The literature comprised a textbook on learning and behaviour as well as additional articles and book chapters, comprising in total ca. 1100 pages.

Student statistics

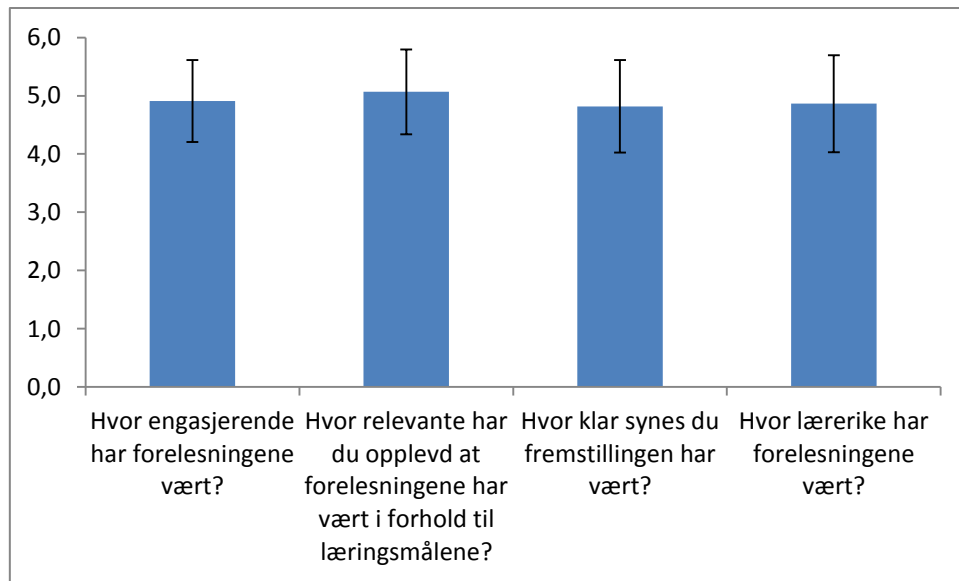
The number of registered (“vurderingsmeldt”) students was 76. All but one student fulfilled the mandatory requirements to register for the final exam. The average grade for the exam was C, with 3 % fail.

Rammevilkår

Most seminars and lectures took place in lecture- or seminar rooms at the Faculty of Psychology.

Student evaluation

In the last two lectures evaluation sheets were handed out to the students. They comprised four questions aimed to measure the satisfaction with the module on a 6-point scale. In addition, two open questions were asked (“Hva har du vært fornøyd med når det gjelder forelesningsrekken?” and “Hva kan etter ditt syn forbedres med denne forelesningsrekken?”). This evaluation sheet has been successfully employed in module PSYK207 and PSYK208 in previous years. The outcome of the four quantifiable measures shows a rather high overall satisfaction with the module (see Figure below).



On the open questions, the students expressed very high satisfaction with the importance of the module and the high commitment of the lecturers. Many students also appreciated the multiple choice tests as an incentive to learn the exam literature. The seminars and practicals were perceived as very useful providing valuable insights in practical applications of the module contents. To further improve the quality of the module, the most frequent suggestions were:

- Fewer 3h lectures and more 2h lectures.
- A higher density of lectures. That is, two rather than one lecture per week.
- Avoid lectures in room 520.

My aim for the next semester is to accommodate those wishes, pending availability of the other lecturers and teachers involved in PSYK207.

Evaluation of the module leader

The module leader took over responsibility for PSYK207 for the first time this semester. The rather high student satisfaction suggests, however, that despite this significant change the high quality from previous years was preserved. This was possible thanks to the help of the previous module leader, who had conceived the general idea and structure of the module as well as the exam literature. The module leader would like to extend his gratitude to the other lecturers and teachers as well as the fantastic support from the teaching administration. The students were highly interested and motivated, creating an open atmosphere for thoughtful and stimulating discussions and played a crucial part in the teaching success.

Furthermore, there has been a steady increase of registered students over the last years in this module, with the total number being more than twice as high as at the outlet (personal communication with the previous module leader). The high student number represents a challenge, particularly for the more practically oriented and interactive teaching forms. The module leader thus hopes that the provision of resources by the Department of biological and medical Psychology as well as the Faculty of Psychology will be continued in the upcoming semesters.