

Exam PSY4506

For the evaluation:

The course aims at introducing ways in which psychology can contribute with respect to reconstruction of democracy and justice following violence and conflict. With this as a starting point, we ask the students to formulate and design a proposed research project within the case they have been working with. The students must be able to formulate a clear research question within the area they have chosen, and discuss relevant theory and research in relation to the planned project. It is further required that they present the way in which they will approach this subject and describe what methods they seem fit for their project. We will also expect them to write about why this approach seems relevant, and how the conflict context impacts on their research design, both in terms of practical and ethical challenges. Here the candidate should make use of literature to back up their methodology choices, to give their design credibility. Discussing gendered and cultural elements here would be an asset. Finally, they must be able to discuss the value of the study they are planning, how it will contribute to the field and how it may (if relevant) be applied in practical work on the ground.

It is very important that the work has a clear psychological focus – and that they can argue why this study is relevant for psychology, and hopefully – within what area of psychology (political psychology; health psychology; community psychology; cultural psychology; social psychology; clinical psychology; developmental psychology etc.). This perspective of why the study is relevant to psychology should be convincingly integrated into the presentation, not only as a sentence that it may be of “importance to psychology”.

An understanding of the relationship between the study and existing research literature within psychology is of essence. An active use of the available literature for the seminar is required, and the candidate is also encouraged to draw on other literature both within and outside the course literature. Being able to use the literature well to discuss key aspects for the proposed study will be key.

It will be seen as an asset if the candidate manages to give an account of the setting for the research as well as their chosen topic in a manner that incorporates and deals with the complexities of conflict, and that the candidate where relevant also engages with elements of power, social hierarchy and agency.