Human psychology for natural scientists
2 hp, VT 2020 (15th of Jan - 31st of March)

Teacher
Hanne Løvlie.

Main area
Biology.

Educational level
MSc- and PhD-course.

Pre-requisites
Background in natural science, familiarity with evolutionary biology, ethology or psychology.

Course content
There are overlapping similarities between mechanisms and processes of human and animal cognition (i.e. how individuals perceive, store and respond to cues in their environment). Research on the topic has a long history with humans as study subject, knowledge that both has the potential to improve animal behavioural studies (both in design, and when focusing on measuring cognition), and one’s own learning efficiency.

The course will be based on the book by Braisby and Gellatly, which will cover human cognition and psychology broadly, including key cognitive processes such as perception, learning, reasoning, decision making, and discussion on how to improve one’s own learning.

Learning goals
The course aims to give a broad understanding of processes explaining aspects of human psychology. Focus will be on the processes perception, decision making and learning. After the course, students should be able to:
- Identify and define cognitive processes known to affect human behaviour or feelings.
- Awareness of how to design behavioural studies avoiding bias in aspects of cognition.
- Have improved knowledge on cognitive mechanisms and processes, and aspects that may explain differences in such.
- Have furthered understanding of how to improve their own learning.

Teaching form
Literature seminars, discussion, and oral presentations.

Course literature
Braisby Nick, Gellatly Angus, 2012, Cognitive psychology.
A large part of Braisby and Gellatly (ca 10 chapters, ca 350 pages), will be used.

Examination
Active participation in group discussions, oral presentation. Pass/Fail. Examiner: Hanne Løvlie.

Generic schedule
Weekly meetings, 8 seminars á 1 hrs. Preparations at home ca 5 hrs per seminar.