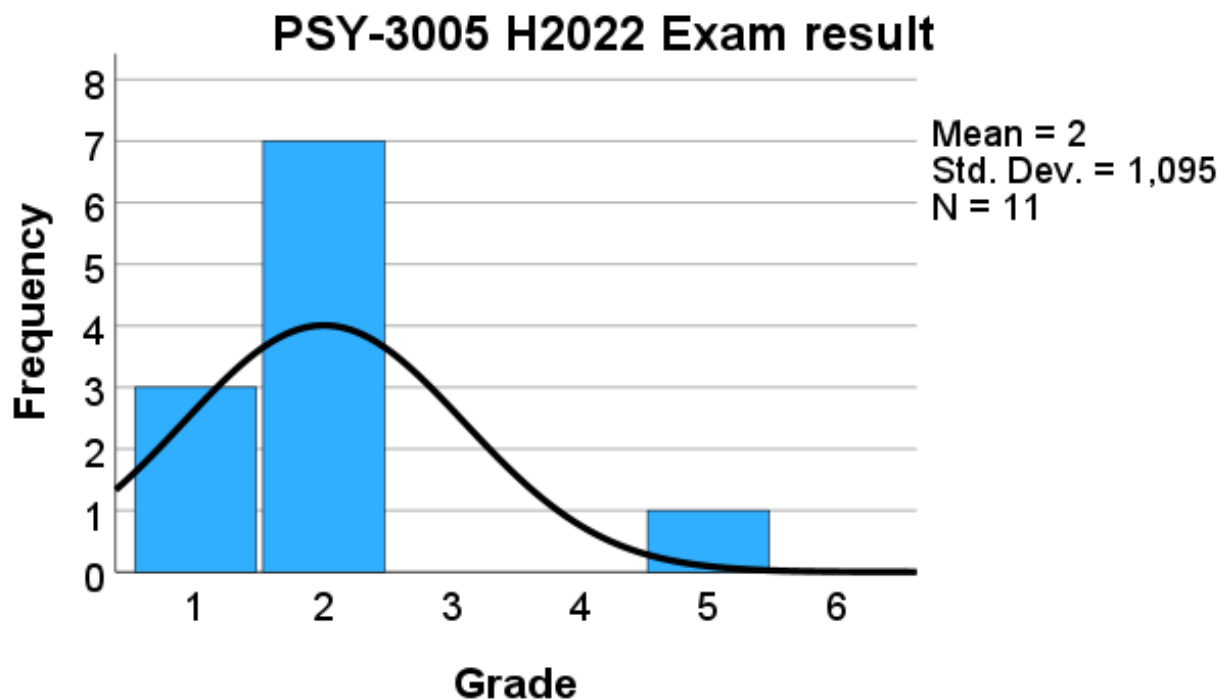


PSY-3005 exam November 2022, Grading and results

The exam for "PSY-3005 Attitudes" was a ten-page home essay on a course-related topic of the student's choice. The student instructions for writing the essay, as well as the examiner guidelines for evaluating the essays, can be found in the Appendix.

The evaluation committee comprised one internal examiner (actually: the course teacher) and three external examiners (psychologists who are not members of this department; all of them native speakers of Norwegian). The internal examiner graded all essays; the external examiners graded 3-4 different essays each. The committee received the essays in an anonymous form, namely with candidate numbers instead of the student names. The examiners first graded the essays independently, using the written guidelines for this exam including the university's general "karakterskala" that defines the meaning of each grade verbally. Then they compared their ratings and determined the final grade for each essay.

Here is the result for the class as a whole:



Note. Grades: 1 = A, 2 = B, ..., 6 = F. One additional essay was a blank submission and did not receive a grade.

PSY-3005 Attitudes H2022: Examiner guidelines

“PSY-3005 Attitudes” is an English-taught course in the Masters program Psychology. The Autumn-2022 class included international exchange students. Before being allowed to submit an essay, all students had to successfully complete the following pass/fail-evaluated coursework:

- an individual, formal presentation to the class (5-15 minutes), plus ...
- a minimum of seven written homework assignments (ca. ¼ - ½ page each).

Although that was a considerable amount of work for the students, the study transcript will later show only the grade for the essay (A to F).

The students received detailed instructions for how to write their essay. These are shown on the next two pages. The students’ instructions shall also be the guidelines for the examination. The letter grades (A to F) shall follow the grading scale from the “Regulations for examinations at UiT,” Section 35 “Assessment terms”:

Symbol	Designation	General, qualitative descriptions of the assessment criteria
A	Excellent	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a very high degree of independent thinking.
B	Very good	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.
C	Good	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.
D	Satisfactory	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
E	Sufficient	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
F	Fail	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.

If there are any questions, then please contact me: frank.siebler@uit.no

PSY-3005 Ten-page home essay: Student instructions

Elements: You need all of the following (everything in APA style):

- A cover-page with the essay's title, your anonymous candidate number, the course code (PSY-3005), the university and department names, and the current semester
- A circa ¼ page abstract, on a page of its own
- 10 pages of text (normal margins, line-spacing 1.5; 1-2 useful figures or diagrams are welcome, but do not count as text) (*Less than 9 pages or more than 15 pages or stretching a too-short text body to 10 pages with generous formatting = "Fail"*)
- References list, starting on a new page
- **NOTE:** The text body of the core essay shall have ten pages. Cover-page, abstract, and references list do **not** count for the requested ten pages of text.

Suggested structure of the 10 pages: Recommended, but not binding:

- Introduction (ca. 1-2 pages)
- Theory Part A (ca. 3-4 pages)
- Theory Part B (ca. 3-4 pages)
- Discussion (ca. 2-3 pages)

In the Introduction, give a preview / an overview / a roadmap of the rest of your essay (it is easiest if you write the Introduction after everything else is done). In Theory Part A, describe one important theory or measurement method or line of research, together with relevant example studies. In Theory Part B, describe a theoretical advancement, together with relevant example studies (f. ex., important critique that has been raised against the theory or method from Part A, or a later refinement that shows that the theory from Part A "works" but only under certain conditions, or a newer theory or method that aims to replace the one from Part A completely). In the Discussion, summarize your Parts A and B, then draw your conclusions (f. ex., is the critique really convincing [why / why not]; is the new theory really better [why / why not]).

Here are a few examples:

- *Part A*: The ELM as an important persuasion theory; *Part B*: the HSM as an improvement over the ELM.
- *Part A*: ELM and HSM as dual-process models of persuasion; *Part B*: the Unimodel as a single-process model that aims to replace them both.
- *Part A*: The Implicit Association Test (IAT) as a measure of prejudice that people don't want to admit or are not even aware of; *Part B*: Critique against the IAT.
- *Part A*: Early research on cognitive dissonance as a cause of attitude change; *Part B*: later research that clarified under what conditions cognitive dissonance does versus does not cause attitude change.

You can freely choose any attitude-related theories and methods that were covered in the course. Completely new attitude-related theories and methods are also possible, but must be agreed with me (F. Siebler) beforehand, to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Contents:

PSY-3005 is a course at the Masters level.

You shall not simply take the keywords from the seminar Powerpoint files and reformulate them into full sentences. You also shall not limit yourself to the short, second-hand descriptions of studies from the course textbook (instead, download and read the original research articles).

You shall tell a two-part theoretical story in your own words (f. ex., "Theory X is in widespread use, but recently the newer Theory Y has been suggested as a better alternative"). You shall back up both parts of the story with empirical evidence (f. ex., "To demonstrate this, the authors set up an experiment where they ... The results of that experiment were ... These findings demonstrate that ..."). You shall draw your own, justified conclusions from the material that you have presented (f. ex., "There are some differences in the terminology. However, the new theory appears to make exactly the same predictions as the old theory. Therefore, ...").