

## Recent Theories on Developmental Psychology (A005446)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Mabbe, Elien PP07 lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#) **crdts** **offering**  
5 A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Contemporary developmental psychology, observation of behavior, interpretation of behavior, developmental phases, developmental theories, internalisation, identity development, obedience and defiance, change, parenting

**Position of the course**

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the field of developmental psychology, focusing on contemporary developmental psychological frameworks that build upon classical developmental psychological theories, as well as on research methods specific to developmental psychology. Additionally, this course offers an overview of various developmental psychological themes, with particular emphasis on how socializing agents can nurture the growth of children and adolescents.

**Contents**

- Theory: the course contains the following themes:
  - Psychological needs
  - Internalization and ownership
  - Autonomy development and moral functioning
  - Different types of stability versus change
  - Obedience, defiance and resistance
  - Identity and identity development
  - Parenting and psychosocial development

**Initial competences**

This course builds upon Developmental Psychology.

**Final competences**

- 1 To relate and to situate theoretical concepts from different theoretical perspectives
- 2 To illustrate and translate theoretical concepts to daily life.
- 3 To know the age-bounded change in developmental skills.
- 4 To be acquainted with the recent developments in the domain.
- 5 To analyze and to interpret research results as well as to relate research results to the original research question.
- 6 To understand the interplay between different developmental skills within a particular age period

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

## Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

## Teaching methods

Lecture

## Extra information on the teaching methods

During the lectures, the theory is presented as interactive as possible to maximize student engagement in the learning process. Guided exercises are used for this purpose. Attendance at the lectures is not mandatory, but it is recommended to facilitate the processing of course content.

## Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Vitamins for growth.  
Indicative price: € 55  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Author : Maarten Vansteenkiste en Bart Soenens  
ISBN : 978-9-46292-286-0  
Number of Pages : 712  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Handouts

Name: Handouts lessons HOPT  
Indicative price: € 10  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

## References

- Grolnick, W. S. (2003). *The psychology of parental control: How well-meant parenting backfires*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Grusec, J. E., & Hastings, P. D. (2015). *Handbook of socialization: Theory and research*. New York: Guilford Press,
- Leary, M. R., & Tangney, J. P. (2003). *Handbook of self and identity*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Schwartz, Z. J., Luyckx, K., & Vignoles, V. L. (2011). *Handbook of identity theory and research*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Ryan, R. M. (2012). *Oxford handbook of human motivation*. London: Oxford.
- Ryan, R. M. & Deci, E. L. (2017). *Self-determination theory: Basic psychological needs in motivation, development, and wellness*. Guilford Press, NY.

## Course content-related study coaching

- Interactive support on Ufora
- By appointment

## Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Periodic evaluation: Written exam with about 40 multiple choice questions that tap into (a) memorisation of the learning material (b) deep-level understanding of the learning material, (c) application of the acquired knowledge, (d) interpretation of research results. In addition to the multiple-choice questions, the exam also includes 4 open-ended questions, of which students must choose to answer 3.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

The final score is determined by participation in the periodic evaluation.

The multiple choice questions count for 80% and the open questions count for 20%.