

Social Psychology (D002830)

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

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Van Hiel, Alain

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Dierckx, Kim

PP07

co-lecturer

Roets, Arne

PP07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Linking Course Master of Science in Health Care Management and Policy](#)

crdts

4

offering

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Health Promotion](#)

4

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

social cognition, social influence, social relations, Helping others, Aggression, Sustainability, Multicultural society

Position of the course

This educational component contributes to the general and multidisciplinary scientific education of students by enabling them to acquire knowledge about the main social-psychological concepts, theories and research methods. The component aims to impart to students knowledge of, and insight into, the relevance of social psychology to applied settings and society as a whole.

Contents

Introduction

- People are social animals
- Social psychology: definition and related disciplines
- A brief history of social psychology
- Social psychology in the 21st century

Social perception

- The raw materials of the first impression
- Attributions: from elements to dispositions
- Integration: from dispositions to impressions
- Confirmation biases: from impressions to reality

Social influence

- Automatic social influence
- Conformity
- Compliance
- Obedience

Attitudes

- Attitudes: basic findings
- Persuasion by communication
- Persuasion by behavior
- Advertisement and information

Helping Others

- Why do we help other people?
- In which circumstances do people help?
- Who helps?
- Interpersonal factors: Who is being helped?

Aggression

- What is aggression?
- Cross-national and intracultural differences
- The origin of aggression
- Social psychological theories of aggression
- The impact of violent media
- Hidden violence

Group performance

- Collective processes
- Disagreement and different opinions
- Small group performance
- Groupthink: losing perspective

Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination

- Expressions of prejudice
- The bases of prejudice and discrimination
- Social categorization and stereotypes
- Sexism

The multicultural society

- Diversity
- Interethnic contact reduces prejudice
- Problems with interethnic contact
- Living together in school and the workplace
- Measures, media, laws and regulations

Towards a sustainable world

- Self-interest versus a prosocial orientation
- Ecological behaviour
- Conflict resolution
- To have or to be?

Initial competences

The student must meet the admission requirements of the program.

It builds on the competences acquired in the Bachelor's degree programs admitted to this program

Final competences

- 1 To be able to relate and frame theoretical concepts, and to understand their implications
- 2 To be able to actualize one's knowledge and insights
- 3 To be able to contribute to societal debate
- 4 To be able to situate the interpersonal, social and cultural context of human behaviour, and to apply social psychology to social problems and realistic cases.
- 5 Knowledge of social identities and ethnic-cultural stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, as well as of processes that alleviate these phenomena.
- 6 Knowledge of sustainability, both in terms of our use of natural resources, as well as in the context of social relationships.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures with demonstration.
- Digital seminars including 1. Obedience and Milgram, 2. Aggression, & 3. how does it feel to be discriminated against? Video material about the method of Jane Elliot and discussion.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Sociale Psychologie
Indicative price: € 60
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
ISBN : 978-9-40144-512-2
Number of Pages : 720
Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd edition
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 : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

References

- Caspi, A., McClay, J., Moffitt, T. E., Mill, J., Martin, J., Craig, I. W., et al. (2002), Role of genotype in the cycle of violence in maltreated children. *Science*, 297(5582), 851-854.
- De Fruyt, F., Bockstaele, M., Taris, R., & Van Hiel, A. (2006). Police interview competencies: Assessment and associated traits. *European Journal of Personality*, 20, 567-584.
- Devine, P. & Plant, A. (Eds.). (2012). *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 45).
- Hewstone, M., & Stroebe, W. (2011). *European Review of Social Psychology* (Vol 21). Psychology Press.
- Rains, S.A., & Turner, M.M. (2007). Psychological reactance and persuasive health communication: A test and extension of the intertwined model. *Human Communication Research*, 33 (2), 241-269.
- Rhodes, N., Roskos-Ewoldsen, D.R., Edison, A., & Bradford, M.B. (2008). Attitude and norm accessibility affect processing of anti-smoking messages. *Health Psychology*, 27 (3), S224-S232.
- Roets, A., & Van Hiel, A. (2008). Why some hate to dillydally and others do not: The arousal-invoking capacity of decision-making for low and high-scoring need for closure individuals. *Social Cognition*, 26, 333-346.
- Van Hiel, A. & Kossowska, M. (2006). Having few positive emotions, or too many negative feelings? Emotions as moderating variables of authoritarianism effects on racism. *Personality and Individual Differences* 40(5), 919-930.
- Van Hiel, A., Onraet, E, Bostyn, D H, Staeus, J., Haesevoets, T., Van Assche, J., & Roets, A. (2020). A meta-analytic integration of research on the relationship between right-wing ideological attitudes and aggressive tendencies. *European Review of Social Psychology*, 31, 183-221.

Course content-related study coaching

- During the intervals and before or after the lecture § Interactive support using UFORA (documentation, demonstrations, feedback).
- Office hours: Kim Dierckx, elke maandag van 10u-12u; Henri Dunantlaan 2 – lokaal 150.061

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

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

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with multiple choice and open questions testing insight and application of knowledge, in keeping with the targeted final competences.

periodic evaluation (100 %)

Calculation of the examination mark

15 point on multiple choice questions

5 points on open questions

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility of feedback by appointment during and after office hours