

## 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 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Van Hiel, Alain

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Dierckx, Kim

PP07

co-lecturer

Roets, Arne

PP07

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

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

**crdts**

**offering**

4

A

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

4

A

[Preparatory Programme 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, Stadeus, 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