

## Differential Psychology (H000428)

**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	independent work lecture
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**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

De Fruyt, Filip	PP07	lecturer-in-charge
Franssens, Raissa	PP07	co-lecturer

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

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Education)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	4	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Joint Section)	4	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology)	4	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	4	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

differential psychology, individual differences, group differences

**Position of the course**

The course Differential Psychology is a key component in the bachelor and is part of Block 2: Models in Psychology. In Block 2, the understanding, explanation and prediction of the human being are central. This course discusses main theories about differences among individuals and groups.

**Contents**

Interests:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Models and theories
- Assessment
- Applications

Personality:

- Historical and contemporary theories and models
- Assessment of personality

Intelligence:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Models and theories
- Assessment

- Applications
- Social debate

Social-emotional skills:

- Historical overview and concepts
- Assessment and applications

Differences between groups: sex differences, national and cultural differences  
 Nature of differences: Genetic, cultural-situational and evolutionary explanatory models

#### **Initial competences**

#### **Final competences**

- 1 Being able to situate and compare psychological theories on differences between individuals.
- 2 Being able to situate and compare psychological theories on differences between groups.
- 3 Being able to explain and discuss the empirical construction and validation of models to describe individual differences.
- 4 Being able to explain and discuss the basis of individual and group differences.
- 5 Being able to scientifically evaluate, label and appreciate differences between individuals and groups.
- 6 Being sensitive to strengths and flaws of the different methods to assess individual differences
- 7 Have insight in the genetic and environmental effects on the development of individual differences

#### **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**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures with demonstrations.  
 Guided self-instruction for handbook chapters that are not covered in the lectures.  
 This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI).  
 During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Individual Differences  
 Indicative price: € 40  
 Optional: yes  
 Language : English  
 Author : De Fruyt, F. (Compilation)  
 ISBN : 978-0-85776-492-8  
 Number of Pages : 234  
 Alternative : none  
 Oldest Usable Edition : 2011  
 Online Available : No  
 Available in the Library : No  
 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 : occasionally  
 Additional information: is a compilation of chapters from Maltby, Day en Macaskill (2007)

Type: Handbook

Name: Personality Psychology  
 Indicative price: € 40  
 Optional: yes

Language : English  
Author : Larsen, Buss, Wismeijer, Song en S. van den Berg  
ISBN : 1-526-84787-6  
Number of Pages : 694  
Alternative : none  
Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
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 : occasionally

Type: Syllabus

Name: Differentiele Psychologie  
Indicative price: € 25  
Optional: yes  
Language : English  
Number of Pages : 337  
Oldest Usable Edition : 2023  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : Yes

## References

See Learning Material

## Course content-related study coaching

Support via Ufora  
By appointment and office hours: Wednesday afternoon  
By e-mail

## Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

## Extra information on the examination methods

multiple choice

## Calculation of the examination mark

Score on exam on 20.