

## Social Cognition and Group Processes (H001576)

**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 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Roets, Arne

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Van Hiel, Alain

PP07

co-lecturer

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

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Clinical Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Education\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology\(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Psychology \(Joint Section\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Industrial Design Engineering Technology](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Clinical Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Clinical Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology\)](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Psychology\(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology\)](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

social cognition, schemes, stereotypes, multiculturalism, diversity, attitudes, automaticity, hot cognition, group processes, social dilemmas, group conflict, sustainability, political world

**Position of the course**

This course is part of Bloc 2: Models in Psychology, and is an advanced course within the field of social psychology.

**Contents**

In this course the following topics are discussed:

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Social cognition

- Social cognition, an introduction (schemes)
- Characteristics of automatic processes
- automaticity in affect and cognition
- The unconscious decider
- "hot cognition"
- Affect: Emotions and moods

- Mutual influences cognition and affect
- The influence of motivation

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#### Attitudes

- Attitude Theories
- Persuasive communication
- Cognitive dissonance theory
- Advertising and information

#### Stereotypes and prejudices

- The expression of prejudice
- The roots of prejudice
- Social categorization and stereotyping
- Individual differences in bias
- Sexism

#### The diverse Society

- Diversity
- Inter-ethnic contact
- The practice of inter-ethnic contact
- Living together in the school and at work
- Well-intentioned measures, media, laws, and regulations

#### The socio-psychological basis of group

- Characteristics of groups
- Group structure
- Power and leadership
- Presence of other groups

#### Group Performance

- Collective processes
- disagreements and differing opinions
- Performance in small groups
- Groupthink

#### Sustainability

- Social dilemmas
- Ecological Behavior
- Conflict Resolution
- to have or to be?

.

#### Political world

- Political knowledge and attitudes
- Ideological attitudes
- Personality profiles of politicians
- Terrorism

### Initial competences

This course unit builds on certain course competencies of the course Sociale psychologie.

### Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge and demonstrate key concepts, theories, and findings in the fields of social cognition and group processes
- 2 To be aware of the recent developments in the field.
- 3 To relate theoretical concepts, frame them, and explain their implications.
- 4 To reflect on the contribution of social psychology in public debate and policy.
- 5 To be able to apply principles from social cognition and group processes on social problems and realistic cases.
- 6 to independently process primary research literature (scientific papers)

### Conditions for credit contract

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

**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.
- Demonstrations of methods (implicit attitudes, affect-cognition distinction, ...)
- Independent work (selection of scientific papers)

**Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: social Psychology (3rd edition)

Indicative price: € 60

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Alain Van Hiel & Arne Roets

ISBN : 978-9-40148-572-2

Number of Pages : 736

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: Students in the model trajectory of the academic bachelor have already purchased this book for the Bach 1 course Social Psychology. Only new students (linking course) still need to purchase the book.

**References**

- Roets, A., & Van Hiel, A. (2011). Allport's prejudiced personality today: Need for closure as the motivated cognitive basis of prejudice. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 20, 349-354.
- Van Assche, J., Roets, A., Dhont, K., Van Hiel, A. (2014). Diversity and Out-Group Attitudes in the Netherlands: The Role of Authoritarianism and Social Threat in the Neighbourhood. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 40(9), 1414-1430.
- Wegner, D.M. (1994). Ironic processes of mental control. *Psychological Review*, 101, 34-52.

**Course content-related study coaching**

- via Ufora
- By appointment, room 150.048

**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 exam with about 40 questions.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Multiple choice exam counts for 100% of the total score

**Facilities for Working Students**

In agreement