

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
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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:

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