

Developmental Psychology (H002094)

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

Offering	Language	Location	Teaching Methods	Hours
A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	seminar lecture	
B (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture seminar	0.0h 0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Soenens, Bart	PP07	lecturer-in-charge
Beyers, Wim	PP07	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Programme	credits	offering
Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Classical developmental psychology, developmental stages, developmental theories, research methodology, physical development, cognitive development, emotional development, social development

Position of the course

This course provides a broad introduction to the domain of developmental psychology. Central to this course is a discussion of different views on human development, classical theories of developmental psychology and methodology specific to the domain of developmental psychology. Further, this course provides an age-bounded overview of developmental tasks and milestones encountered by people throughout the lifespan.

This course contributes mainly to Block 2 (Models in psychology) in the psychology program and to the building block 'Psychological models' in particular.

This course also provides a basis for two more specialized courses in developmental psychology: Recent theories on developmental psychology (H002118) and Lifespan psychology (H002130).

Contents

This course covers the following topics:

- General introduction to the domain of developmental psychology
- Lifespan perspective
- Classic and contemporaneous theories of developmental psychology
- Methodology of research in developmental psychology
- Features of normal development from infancy to late adulthood
- Physical development (e.g., motor skills and brain development)
- Cognitive development (e.g., information processing and moral development)
- Emotional development (e.g., recognition of emotions and emotion regulation)

- Social development (e.g., attachment and relations with peers)

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 To understand and compare theories and their underlying anthropological assumptions
- 2 To situate developmental skills and phenomena on a timeline across the lifespan
- 3 To understand the interplay between developmental skills and phenomena within the different developmental periods
- 4 To relate, to situate and to demonstrate implications of theoretical concepts
- 5 To illustrate and translate theoretical concepts to daily life
- 6 To be acquainted with the recent developments in the domain
- 7 To understand the advantages and disadvantages of several methods in research on developmental psychology

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- The lectures involve discussion and explanations of (developmental) theory. A number of small assignments and exercises are held during the lectures.
- The seminars deal with three developmental themes (attachment, self-esteem, or ego-integrity) that are discussed in greater depth than during the lectures. Students receive exercises that are solved in an interactive fashion with the teaching assistant. Most importantly, students are taught to correctly interpret case materials provided by us against the background of developmental theorizing about the specific theme.
- Attendance at the lectures is optional yet recommended (to better understand the content of the course). Similarly, attendance at the seminars is highly recommended, yet not mandatory.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Ontwikkelingspsychologie

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 400

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Additional information: Syllabus consisting of slides. It can be purchased in print, but it will also be available online through Ufora.

References

- Berk, L. E. (2014). Development through the lifespan (custom edition). Allyn & Bacon, Inc.
- Feldman, R. S. (2020). Ontwikkelingspsychologie (8e Editie). Pearson.
- Craeynest, P. (2005). Psychologie van de levensloop: Inleiding in de ontwikkelingspsychologie. Leuven: Acco.
- Verhofdstadt-Denève, L., Van Geert, P., & Vyt, A. (2003). Handboek ontwikkelingspsychologie: Grondslagen en theorieën. Houten/Antwerpen: Bohn-Stafleu Van Loghum.

Course content-related study coaching

- Interactive support using Ufora

- By appointment.

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

Details on periodic evaluation: the written exam has 45 to 50 multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 alternative responses, only one of which is correct. Most questions (40-45) deal with the content of the lectures (which is the same for all students) and a smaller set of questions (5-10) deals with the content of the practical sessions.

Calculation of the examination mark

The score for this course is based 100% on the periodic evaluation.