

Social Psychology (H002115)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

practical

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Hiel, Alain

PP07

lecturer-in-charge

Roets, Arne

PP07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

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

crdts

4

offering

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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

self-concept, self-esteem, person perception, non verbal communication, attribution, cognitive dissonance, conformity, obedience,, attraction, interpersonal relationship, helping behaviour, altruism, aggression, psychology of law

Position of the course

This course is part of Bloc 2: Models in Psychology. Bloc 2 focusses on understanding, explaining and predicting human behavior. It is an introductory course within the field of social psychology.

Contents

This course covers following topics:

- defining social psychology, a brief history of social psychology and an overview of future developments;
- introduction to various forms of empirical research on social cognition, social interaction and social influence. Discussion of the role of ethics and values in social psychological research;
- theories and research about the self-concept, self-esteem and self-presentation;

- introductory overview of person perception, nonverbal communication, attribution theory and integration of information;
- discussion of various forms of bias such as cognitive heuristics and confirmation bias;
- review of theories on social influence: conformity, compliance and blind obedience.
- interpersonal relationships, importance of interpersonal relationships, attraction, close relationships;
- helping others, motivations, situations and dispositions;
- theory and empirical studies of aggression; impact of violent media
- introduction to social psychological applications in law

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 To be able to relate and situate social psychological concepts, and to be able to demonstrate their implications
- 2 To know the recent developments in the domain of social psychology.
- 3 To gain insight into the interaction between social psychology and societal debate
- 4 To know the possibilities of applying social psychology to law.
- 5 To gain insight in social psychological research.
- 6 To know how a social psychological experiment is conducted.

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, Practical

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures

Seminar during lessons about obedience and Milgram

Digital seminars including (1) Main and interaction effects and (2) Aggression.

Practicum: participation in one or two social psychological studies (depending on duration) and discussion. Students have the possibility to make a replacement task.

Recordings of lessons are available for one week, and available permanently at the end of the course.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Sociale Psychologie (4de Editie). Academia Press.

Indicative price: € 70

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Van Hiel, A., & Roets, A.

ISBN : 978-9-02098-828-4

Number of Pages : 720

Oldest Usable Edition : 4de Editie

Online Available : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

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.
- Gawronski, B. (Ed.). (2026). *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 73). Elsevier.

Gilbert, D. T., Fiske, S. T., Finkel, E. J., & Mendes, W. B. (Eds.). (2025). The handbook of social psychology, (6th ed.). Situational Press. <https://doi.org/10.70400/NYKH3013>

Üskül, A. K. & van Zomeren, M. (Eds.) (2026). European Review of Social Psychology (Vol 37). Taylor & Francis.

van Koppen, P.J., & de Keijser, J. W. (2017). Routes van het recht: Over de rechtspsychologie. Den Haag: Boom Juridische Uitgevers.

Course content-related study coaching

- During the intervals and before or after the lecture
- Interactive support using Ufora (documentation, demonstrations, feedback).
- Office hours: Tassilo Tissot, Monday 10am to 12am.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodic evaluation: multiple choice questions assessing knowledge and application of the acquired knowledge in novel situations. Examination of the periodic evaluation during the second examination period is possible.

Permanent evaluation through an exercise that is linked to experiment participation. It is possible to make a replacement task.

Calculation of the examination mark

The permanent evaluation accounts for 5% (1/20) and the periodic evaluation accounts for 95% (19/20).

The score on the permanent evaluation is only added if the student passes for the periodic evaluation.

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility of feedback by appointment during and after office hours