

Personality Psychology (H002125)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

B (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

| | | |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| De Clercq, Barbara | PP07 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Verbeke, Lize | PP07 | co-lecturer |
| Wille, Bart | PP07 | co-lecturer |

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

| | crdts | offering |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology) | 4 | B |
| Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Education) | 4 | B |
| Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology) | 4 | B |
| Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology) | 4 | B |
| Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Joint Section) | 4 | B |
| Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology) | 4 | B |
| Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology) | 4 | B |

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Personality theories
Personality assessment
Temperament and Personality development
Personality in daily life
Personality pathology

Position of the course

This course is situated within the Bachelor program (2nd year) Psychology.

Contents

This course addresses the following topics:

- contemporary theories/models of personality
- assessment of personality
- biological and behavioral-genetic perspective on personality
- Stability and change of temperament and personality across the life span (infancy, childhood, adolescence, early-mid-late adulthood)
- personality disorders: content, assessment, and development across the life course
- personality from a forensic perspective
- personality and functional domains of living:
 - school experience, career choice, dark professional functioning, life-long learning
 - romantic relations, family life, and parenting
 - peer-relationships
 - quality of life, health and longevity
 - life events and coping

Initial competences

This course builds on certain course competences of Differential Psychology.

Final competences

- 1 To explain and apply different perspectives on personality and (abnormal) personality development
- 2 To be aware of strengths and weaknesses of different methods of personality assessment
- 3 To discuss personality pathology from a categorical versus a dimensional framework
- 4 To evaluate the relevance of scientific studies. To interpret research results in view of the research hypothesis
- 5 To indicate how (maladaptive) personality traits are significant in daily life across different contexts. To understand the relative significance of personality in human functioning against the background of other psychological factors
- 6 To explain the relevance of personality information for understanding maladaptive behavior. To use and apply personality information in the course of profiling of socially-deviant behavior

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures with demonstrations and assisted self-tuition; Students have to study chapters and a set of scientific papers themselves, and contact the instructor in case of problems.

Seminar in which students actively process information on personality relying on a self-assessment, in order to learn to apply and integrate theoretical learning content on the description and measurement of personality.

Recordings will be made available at least one week after the lecture, and will remain online until the end of the resit examination period.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Personality psychology: domains of knowledge about human nature

Indicative price: € 65

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Larsen, Buss, Wismeijer & Song

ISBN : 978-1-52684-787-4

Number of Pages : 694

Oldest Usable Edition : 3rd edition

Online Available : Yes

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

References

- Corr, P. J., & Matthews, G. (2020). *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Psychology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Costa, P. T., & Widiger, T. A. (2012). *Personality Disorders and the Five-Factor Model of Personality*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- Dilalla, L. F., & Gottesman, I. I. (2004). *Behavior Genetics Principles: Perspectives in Development, Personality, and Psychopathology*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- Lejuez, C.W., & Gratz, K.L. (2020). *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Disorders*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Oldham, J. M., & Skodol, A. E. (2021). *The American Psychiatric Association Textbook of Personality Disorders*. Washington DC: American Psychiatric Association.

Publishing.
Widiger, T.A. (2015). The Oxford Handbook of the Five-Factor Model. Oxford University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

- Support via Ufora
- Office hours: Tuesday afternoon
- Email

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 possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

EXPLANATION OF PERIODIC EVALUATION

Multiple choice exam for the evaluation of theoretical knowledge and insights that were obtained during the lectures and seminar

EXPLANATION OF CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

Attendance and participation in the seminar is obligatory. In case of non-attendance and/or non-participation, the student cannot pass this course.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final score is the score on the multiple choice and open-ended questions exam on 20 points.

Addendum

Due to the tasks which are part of the seminars it will no longer be possible to enroll in this course, starting from the Monday of schoolweek 3.