

Lifespan Psychology (H002130)

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) English Gent lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Exchange Programme in Psychology	4	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Psychology(main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Lifespan research, Family research with adolescents, Social media, Peer relationships, Romantic relationships in adolescence and young adulthood, Resilience

Position of the course

This course builds on the knowledge provided in the courses Developmental Psychology in the first two bachelor years and offers a deepening of knowledge on a number of specific topics in development psychology that are relevant for future clinical or educational psychologists. This way, this course aims to add to the scientific and reflective attitude of students in these tracks.

Contents

A selection of topics based on recent research around developmental psychological themes covering the complete lifespan is covered, for example:

- Social media
- Transition to parenthood
- Parenting adolescents
- Loneliness across the lifespan
- Peer relationships in adolescence
- Romantic relationships across the lifespan
- Agency and need crafting
- Selection, optimization and compensation in old age
- Resilience and emotion regulation

Initial competences

This course builds on certain course competences of [Developmental Psychology](#) & [Recent Theories on Developmental Psychology](#)

Final competences

- 1 To define, to situate and to demonstrate implications of theoretical concepts in developmental psychology
- 2 To be acquainted with the recent developments in developmental psychology.
- 3 To understand adequate research approaches and methods for the study of change and development.
- 4 To understand the interplay between developmental skills and phenomena and

- functioning of people in different age periods.
- 5 To analyse and to interpret research results and to relate them to the original research question.
 - 6 To select and to integrate literature with the purpose of developing an original research question.
 - 7 Communicate results of scientific research in developmental psychology to a broader audience.
 - 8 To develop a positive vision on human beings and to be able to defend this.
 - 9 To reflect on the interaction between psychology and the public debate.
 - 10 To reflect on the interaction between psychology and policy issues.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

For **regular students**, during plenary lectures, the lecturer provides insight into the content and methods of empirical research articles on developmental psychology topics that students have read independently in advance. Moreover, concrete research methods of developmental psychology are explained and demonstrated.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus Lifespan Psychology 2025-26

Indicative price: € 12

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 250

Available on Ufora : No

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: for sale at Top Copy

References

N/A, see in syllabus

Course content-related study coaching

Support through Ufora and e-mail.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Language of end-of-term evaluation can be freely chosen: Dutch or English.

The exam comprises

- multiple choice question for each topic
- open questions

Calculation of the examination mark

A combination of points on the multiple choice questions and the open questions at

the exam.

Facilities for Working Students

Participation in extra exam sessions