

Biological Anthropology (B000100)

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

Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch	lecture	45.0 h
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Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Thienpont, Kristiaan	RE23	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences	crdts	offering
	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Biosocial variation, nature and nurture, human evolution, biosocial criminology, human diversity, human behaviour and biology

Position of the course

The general objective is to convey knowledge about biosocial processes of human variation and the determinants of that variation, in particular behavioural variation. Bio-anthropology is the domain that provides the best general framework for this.

The fundamental knowledge from natural sciences provides an understanding of the causes of behaviour in general and delinquent behaviour in particular in a manner complementary to the social sciences. This course contributes to the general objective of the Bachelor in Criminology, aiming at a broad and interdisciplinary training.

This course provides the necessary theoretical background to those students taking the optional course on "Bio-social problems" in either bachelor 2 or 3. Students not opting for the optional course in any case have a general view on the implications of biological anthropology for the social-scientific analysis of social behaviour.

This course contributes to the mastering of the following course competences: B.1.1.; B.1.4.; B.1.5.; B.1.6.; B.2.2.; B.3.1.; B.3.2.; B.3.4.; B.4.4. B.5.1.; B.5.3.

Contents

The educational goals of this course are to obtain an understanding of the description and interpretation of human behaviour at the individual and the group level.

The biological basis of our behaviour plays an evident role in social contexts. This will appear from the treatment of the following subjects:

- patterns, development and genetics of behaviour
- sociobiology, behavioural ecology and sociobiology
- evolutionary stable strategies and the evolution of behaviour
- social life: living in groups, selfishness and altruism
- sexual selection
- altruism and friendship
- biocriminology

Initial competences

The course starts from an elementary knowledge, skills and attitudes at secondary school level.

Final competences

- 1 Having a scientific basic knowledge of the most relevant bio-anthropological

- subfields for the analysis of human behaviour
- 2 Having of the genetic and evolutionary-biological influences on human behaviour, and of the specific interactions between bio-anthropological and social-scientific influences on human behaviour.
- 3 Ability to apply bio-anthropology and the interaction with social science to current bio-social developments;
- 4 Ability to critically discuss and evaluate the societal and social-scientific implications of bio-anthropological developments.
- 5 Having a discerning and analytical mind towards the study of human behaviour, with due attention for the multidimensional nature of behaviour in man.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Ex Cathedra (including frequent use of video material) - Interactive (supported by ICT-applications): at the Minerva website, the slides supporting the actual lessons are available for downloading, students can submit their exercises and receive feed-back. - data mining by internet consulting (practical skills in harvesting the recent relevant literature)

Learning materials and price

- Textbook Bio-anthropology (Boekenpakket "Biologische antropologie" (Thienpont, 2018); Gent, Skribis & "Biosociale Criminologie" (Thienpont, 2018); Gent; Skribis. ISBN pakket: 9789073626928)
- Selection of papers from scientific literature and/or popular science (posted on Minerva)
- Video (posted on Minerva)

References

Boekenpakket "Biologische antropologie" (Thienpont, 2018); Gent, Skribis & "Biosociale Criminologie" (Thienpont, 2018); Gent; Skribis. ISBN pakket: 9789073626928

Course content-related study coaching

Consultation on demand, group sessions where students can ask questions, contact through email and Minerva.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark