Neurobiology of Affective Disorders (H001992)

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Pourtois, Gilles
Müller, Sven

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
A (semester 2) English lecture 30.0 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>credits</th>
<th>offering</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science in Psychology (main subject Clinical Psychology)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
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</tbody>
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Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Neurobiology, Experimental psychopathology, Affective disorders, Neuroscience methods

Position of the course
Neurobiology of Affective Disorders is a bachelor (clinical psychology track) and master course (theoretical and experimental psychology track) which gives the students an extensive introduction of the most prevalent affective disorders, their genetic or environmental causes, the underlying brain mechanisms as well as new clinical methods to treat them. This course is optional and can be chosen in specific tracks.

Contents
This course covers the following topics:
• To cover a broad scope of existing and prevalent emotional disorders (anxiety disorders, depression, bipolar disorder, personality disorders, psychopathy, substance abuse, schizophrenia ...).
• For each of them, carefully introduce and review its actual neurobiological bases, from multiple angles (function, structure, neurotransmission and neurochemical factors). Because many of these disorders have distinctive neurobiological grounds and neural correlates, this course will contribute to help refine and improve the factual knowledge regarding the differential diagnosis and symptoms of these emotional disorders.
• A clear transdiagnostic approach/theory (i.e., to identify common/generic vulnerability factors affecting the genesis and maintenance of these disorders) will be adopted. Moreover, throughout the course, a special emphasis will be put on translational research, enabling bridging the gap between these neuroscience findings (and hallmarks of these disorders) and clinical practice.

Initial competences
Psychonomics I
Psychonomics II
Research Methods in Psychology

Final competences
1 To consider and explain current models and taxonomies in psychiatry (and experimental psychopathology) in a critical manner

(Course)
2 To learn and be able to describe different neuroscientific (brain-imaging) methods
3 To discuss a translational and transdiagnostic approach (and model) in psychiatry
4 To link neuroscientific evidence with concrete (clinical) cases or observations in the practice, and the other way around
5 To compare different conceptions and models in psychiatry, and to list their respective predictions, advantages, and drawbacks
6 To use different levels of analysis in order to better consider and understand psychiatric disorders
7 To find and discuss possible solutions for the problems pertaining to both the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders
8 To evaluate dynamic interaction effects occurring in different brain networks and report specific impairments arising in these networks as a result of genetic and/or environmental factors
9 To identify the tight links between cognition and emotion

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
Lecture

Learning materials and price
Course notes in English.
Slides in English.
Articles.
Estimated Cost: 20 EUR

References

Course content-related study coaching
• Interactive support using Minerva.
• Via email.
• By appointment.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark
Written exam counts for 100% of the final mark.

(Approved)