Social Psychology (B001643)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course
Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

Course size
Credits 4.0
Study time 120 h
Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021
A (semester 2) Dutch Gent lecture 37.5 h

seminar: coached exercises 7.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021
Van Hiel, Alain PP07 lecturer-in-charge
Roets, Arne PP07 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021
Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Aggression, Helping others, Sustainability, Group performance, Social influence, Social relations, Multicultural society, Psychology and law

Position of the course
The course contributes to the general and multidisciplinary scientific formation of criminology students by acquiring knowledge about the major social psychological concepts, theories and research methods. The course aims to impart knowledge about and insight into the relevance of social psychology for the study of antisocial behaviour and criminality.

Contents
• Introduction
  • People are social animals
  • Social psychology: definition and related disciplines
  • A brief history of social psychology
  • Social psychology in the 21st century

Research methods
• The development of hypotheses
• The operationalization of social psychological variables
• Testing ideas: research designs
• Ethics and values in social psychology

Social perception
• The raw materials of the first impression
• Attributions: from elements to dispositions
• Integration: from dispositions to impressions
• Confirmation biases: from impressions to reality

Social influence
• Automatic social influence
• Conformity

(Approved)
• Compliance
• Obedience

Attitudes
• Attitudes: basic findings
• Persuasion by communication
• Persuasion by behavior
• Advertisement and information

Aggression
• What is aggression?
• Cross-national and intracultural differences
• The origin of aggression
• Social psychological theories of aggression
• The impact of violent media
• Hidden violence

Group performance
• Collective processes
• Disagreement and different opinions
• Small group performance
• Groupthink: losing perspective

Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination
• Prejudice types
• The roots of prejudice
• Social categorization and stereotypes
• Sexism

The multicultural society
• Diversity
• Interethnic contact reduces prejudice
• Problems with interethnic contact
• Living together in school and the workplace
• Measures, media, laws and regulations

Towards a sustainable world
• Self-interest versus a prosocial orientation
• Ecological behavior
• Conflict resolution
• To have or to be?

Social psychology and law
• The selection of a jury
• The legal process
• Jury deliberation
• The sentencing process

Initial competences
Final objectives of secondary education

Final competences
1 Being able to describe the basic principles and concepts of social psychology.
2 Being able to situate, compare and evaluate social psychological theories.
3 To be able to critically analyze the emergence of and reactions to deviant behavior and criminality in terms of social psychology, and to apply these ideas to criminological questions.
4 Dispose of practical and applicable knowledge and insight in the basic concepts, theoretical principles and research methods of social psychology that contribute to the study of deviancy and criminality.
5 Command the skills allowing critical reflection on deviancy and criminality and on the individual and social reaction to these phenomena.
6 Situate behaviour in its interpersonal, social and cultural context.
7 To be able to identify obstacles for successful cooperation in task groups.

(Approved)
8 To gain insight in multicultural issues.
9 To strike a critical-scientific attitude towards (historical) sources, (scientific) literature and (empirical) data pertaining to criminological issues.
10 To gain insight in the individual and contextual basis of ecological behavior and a sustainable world.

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, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods
Lectures with video demonstrations of how research is conducted in reality and/or illustrations of the concepts. Attention is paid to the cross-cultural differences in social psychological phenomena. The chapter aggression explicitly discusses criminal behavior and the effectiveness of punishment to reduce delinquency. The chapter law psychology addresses phenomena that may lead to fault verdicts, like false confessions and mistakes of eye-witnesses.
Seminar 1: Social perception: demonstration Kelley's model, person perception, non-verbal behavior and lies
Seminar 2: are people still obedient these days? Video material about a recent replication of the classic work of Milgram and discussion.
Seminar 3: how does it feel to be discriminated against? Video material about the method of Jane Elliot and discussion.
Seminar 4: Aggression: analyses of own test scores, the importance of test norms and Zimbardo about 'bad situations'
Seminar 5: Law psychology: profiling.

Learning materials and price
o Estimated cost: 60 EUR
o MINERVA (with for each chapter: Objectives, transparencies)

References

Course content-related study coaching
• During the intervals and before or after the lecture
• Interactive support using Minerva (documentation, demonstrations, feedback).
• Office hours: Kim Dierckx, Monday 10am to 12am.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

(Approved)
Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
   Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
   not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
   Written examination comprising multiple-choice and open questions assessing understanding and application of knowledge fitting with the final competencies.

Calculation of the examination mark
   15 points can be earned on the multiple choice questions.
   5 points on the open question