



## Bachelor's courses Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2019-2020



# Behaviour and the Brain part 1: Addiction

<b>Course code</b>	P_BBAA_1 ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 5
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. of Behavioural and Movement Science
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. A.H.M. Willemsen
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. A.H.M. Willemsen
<b>Teaching staff</b>	prof. dr. A.H.M. Willemsen
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	200

## Course objective

To provide insight into the biopsychosocial mechanisms that underlie behavior, with a focus on drug use and addiction, learning and attention.

## Course content

When we engage in behaviour, we often hope to gain something, to be rewarded. To optimize the reward we receive, we exquisitely fine-tune our behaviour and become expert reward-seekers. Our behaviour can lead to positive effects, such as gaining new skills and achieving academic success, but it may also have negative consequences, for instance the short-term reward of drug intake may lead to addiction. During part I of the course you will gain knowledge of the biological and psychosocial processes that play a role in the search for rewards, in particular in relation to drug use and addiction. The nature of drugs, their short-term reward and related progression into addiction, as well as non-drug related addictions will be addressed. In part II you will gain insight into processes that guide our attention and learning and relate this to drug use. Throughout the course you will also learn more about the methods scientific research has at its disposal to increase this knowledge.

## Form of tuition

Lectures and tutorials

## Type of assessment

Assignments and poster

## Remarks

This course is taught by Biological Psychology and is linked to Behaviour and the Brain part 2: Attention (coordinated by Cognitive Psychology)

The course is taught in English