



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

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2018-2019



# Emotion and Social Cognition

<b>Course code</b>	P_BEMSCOG ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Gedrags- en Bewegingswetensch.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. K. Mortier
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. K. Mortier
<b>Teaching staff</b>	dr. K. Mortier
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture
<b>Level</b>	300

## Course objective

Social cognition investigates the dynamics of people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors as they occur in everyday social situations. Some of the key questions in social cognition research are:

- How do people infer traits from the behavior of others?
- How do various kinds of stereotypes and prejudice influence our judgments of and behavior towards others? What role does language play in communicating stereotypes?
- Which factors shape how we think and feel about ourselves?
- What is the influence of the unconscious in our everyday judgments and decisions?

Social cognition thus challenges us to reassess our intuitions and preconceptions about our own and others' behavior.

## Course content

This course is about how we think (cognition) and feel (emotion) about others. The course consists of lectures and students will design a study with their workgroup. Each workgroup consists of four persons.

Workgroups will be

given a recent target article in the area of emotion and social cognition from the

lecturer. They will design an experiment and present this proposal to the other students.

This course has the following learning goals:

- To be able to describe and understand the most important topics and approaches in the field of Emotion and Social Cognition.
- To be able to think critically about design of experiments.
- To be able to explain results from a study and link these results to theory.
- To be able to provide scientific arguments when discussing research findings.

## Form of tuition

- Lectures
- Workgroup meetings
- Develop a researchproposal with workgroup
- Presentation and discussion of the researchporposal
- Workgroup meetings with lecturer

### **Type of assessment**

- The final grade for this course is composed of an exam grade, which accounts for 70%, and a grade for the workgroup project, which counts for 30%. To pass the course students need to have a 6 or higher for the exam and a 6 or higher for the workgroup assignment.
- For the exam, students have to study the complete book, the lecture material, research articles and the material discussed by their own workgroup. The exam will contain 40 multiple choice questions (a,b,c,d), which accounts for 60% of the exam grade, and will contain 4 open-ended questions, which will account for 40% of the exam grade. The exam questions will be in English, but students may answer in Dutch or English.
- The lecturer will give feedback on the research proposals and presentations and will grade them. The grade for the workgroup project will also take into account the quality of the experiment.
- Presentations have to be in English and everybody has to present a part.
- Partial grades for the workgroups and for the exam remain valid for 2 years.

### **Course reading**

- Fiske, S. T., & Taylor, S. E. (2017). Social cognition: From brains to culture (3rd edition). Sage.
- Several scientific articles as a theoretical background for the students' workgroup presentations.

### **Recommended background knowledge**

It is assumed that basic concepts of Social Psychology (introduced in the first year bachelor program of psychology) are known.