

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN)

Minor in Psychology (MIP)

Course code:	4501MIPSY
Name coordinator:	dr. Judith Peters - j.peters@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Full period of this minor:	period 1-2
ECTS credits in total of this minor:	24
Language of instruction:	English
Teaching methods:	Lecture(s), PBL, Assignment, Skills, Papers, Simulated Patient contact, Work in subgroups
Assessment methods:	Written exams (mainly multiple-choice), Attendance, Paper, Assignment
Keywords:	Social Psychology, Personality Psychology, Psychopathology, and Neuropsychology

Full course description: The Minor in Psychology provides a broad background in Psychology. The courses will introduce students to some of the most pivotal fields in Psychology, i.e., Social Psychology, Personality Psychology, Psychopathology, and Neuropsychology. For course descriptions, see below.

Please note that:

- some of the courses in your program are accompanied by practicals and you have to attend and pass the practical to pass the course. The practicals “Introduction library” & “Introduction UM Systems” in period 1 (Social Behaviour course) and the practical “Psychiatric Anamnesis” in period 2 (Psychopathology course) are exceptions to this rule, you are exempt from following these practicals.
- there is a maximum of 50 participants for this minor program, selection is on a first-come-first-served basis.
- we do not offer courses in period 3 to extend the minor.
- do not register with individual course codes. Only registrations with code **4501MIPSY** will be considered.

Course objectives: Obtain an overview of the field of Psychology.

Prerequisites: Enrolled in bachelor year 3. No specific prerequisites. But given the neuroscientific content of this minor (especially the neuropsychology course), some background knowledge and affinity with (neuro)biology is recommended for this minor.

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1. PERIOD 1: September – October

1. **Social Psychology** ('Social Behaviour')

Social Behaviour offers an introduction into social psychology: how is the behaviour of a person influenced by the presence of others? In this course you will explore how phenomena such as group dynamics, prejudice, conformity pressure, stereotyping, and attribution influence our concepts about others and ourselves and our corresponding behaviour.

2. **Personality Psychology** ('Personality and Individual Differences')

This course will focus on differences between humans. Why is one person completely frightened when watching a low-budget horror movie scene, while another can only laugh about all its clichés? Do persons respond so differently because of their genetic or cultural differences? Is personality shaped by nature or nurture? And does one have a 'personality' at all, considering how differently you can respond in different situations, roles or at a different age. In this course you will discuss among others different theories on personality, the nature of intelligence, and causes of individual differences. Special attention will be given to social implications and applications (e.g., Human Resources; assessment, selection and training).

2. PERIOD 2: November – December

3) **Psychopathology** ('Psychopathology')

What is abnormal behaviour? How does a disorder, such as an anxiety, mood, psychotic or eating disorder, develop? And what can be done about it in terms of psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy? How effective are different forms of therapy? In this course you will become familiar with the clinical picture of and diagnostic criteria for the most frequent psychological disorders. You will discuss the different theories on their origin, related empirical findings, and get an introduction to widely used treatments for these disorders.

4) **Neuropsychology** ('Body and Behaviour')

The most important structure for explaining human behaviour is our brain. Why do you get an appetite for a cup of soup in the afternoon and why do smokers crave for a cigarette time and time again? Which brain processes cause jet lag? These and many other questions will be touched upon in this course. Based on a number of themes, such as sleep, food, addiction, sex and movement, you will learn more about the biological mechanisms underlying our behaviour. You will become familiar with basal concepts of neurochemistry (the chemical substances in the brain), neuroanatomy (the structure of the brain) and neurophysiology (how neurons transmit information in the brain). Finally, the course introduces the measuring instruments that are nowadays available to study our brain.