



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Group Dynamics

Course Code	P_BGRDYNA
Credits	6
Period	P3
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sc.
Course Coordinator	dr. B.M. Armenta Gutierrez MSc
Examiner	dr. B.M. Armenta Gutierrez MSc
Teaching Staff	dr. B.M. Armenta Gutierrez MSc
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

The learning outcomes for the student after completing this course are:

1. The student is able to analyse groups in their most important features.
2. The student is able to identify and select appropriate theoretical frameworks and research techniques for the study of groups.
3. The student is able to explain and discuss how being in a group influences individual, interpersonal and intergroup attitudes, behaviour and cognition.
4. The student is able to explain and discuss how individual members can influence group formation, its characteristics, its structure, and its behaviour.
5. The student is able to reflect on how the various subjects impact her/his daily life and her/his civic responsibility.
6. The student is able to collaborate in a team.

Course Content

We spend the majority of our time in groups and they affect how we think, how we feel, and how we behave. Our behaviour can be influenced by group characteristics, group norms, and goals, but also by other group members. Additionally, how we are being perceived by others is dependent on our group membership and the characteristics of our group. In order to understand individuals and society at large, it is therefore crucial that we understand how groups influence us: how they influence our actions, beliefs, identity and values, and vice versa, how groups can be influenced by its individual members.

In this 3rd year undergraduate course, entitled Group Dynamics, we aim to understand the many different aspects of groups. In addition, we will review the leading perspectives on group dynamics, from the origins and functions of groups to the many challenges facing groups and teams in societies and organizations today. This course adopts a truly interdisciplinary approach towards the study of group dynamics in which the social psychological, anthropological, evolutionary, and organizational science perspectives will dominate. We explore the ways in which individuals shape group processes and, in turn, how groups shape individual behaviour. We will look at the psychological functions of groups and when groups work (and when they do not) for their members.

We also look at the many implications of group dynamic theories for understanding the functioning of groups, teams, communities, sports and leisure clubs, organizations, businesses, and nations of which we are all members.

Additional Information | Teaching Methods

Group dynamics is a short but intensive course, consisting of 6 lectures, individual and group assignments, and an exam. Students should spend each week around 40 hours attending lectures, reading the literature, working on assignments and preparing for the exam. That means that for four weeks, students are expected to concentrate full-time (i.e., the equivalent of a 9-5 job) on this course.

Method of Assessment

A written examination, containing a mixture of multiple choice and open ended questions, and a set of group and individual assignments challenging the student to apply their theoretical knowledge about group dynamics to the real world.

Literature

- Forsyth, Donelson R. (2019) Group Dynamics. 7th edition. Cengage Learning.

Additional Information

Lectures, exams and assignments are in English.
It is only possible to write the assignments and to answer the open exam questions in English.