



# 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](#).

# Cooperation and Competition

Course Code	P_BCOCOM
Credits	6
Period	P5
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sc.
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. D.P. Balliet
Examiner	prof. dr. D.P. Balliet
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. D.P. Balliet
Teaching method(s)	Lecture

## Course Objective

The fundamental question about human behavior that will be examined throughout the duration of the course is: What gets individuals to sacrifice their immediate self interests to do what is best for a collective.

## Course Content

Humans are ultra-social. We are constantly interacting with other individuals and groups. Often during these interactions people can find that their immediate self interest is at odds with what is best for their relationships, family, work organizations, community, nation, and species. How we resolve these motivational conflicts is a central issue in the study of human conflict and cooperation. This course will cover theories and research on human cooperation. In so doing, we will examine several different perspectives on human cooperation (e.g., evolution, cultural theory, and interdependence theory) and review research on the factors that influence cooperation (e.g., communication, incentives, motives, and trust). The study of human cooperation has several practical implications, e.g. how to reduce conflict in marriages, what are the most effect ways to manage work groups, what can governments do to encourage corporations to engage in environmentally friendly behaviors, and what strategies can reduce international conflict, to name a few. Throughout the course we will address both theoretical and practical implications of research on human cooperation.

## Additional Information Teaching Methods

There will be 12 lectures, 1.5 hours each

## Method of Assessment

The course evaluation will be based on a final exam. The final exam will involve multiple choice questions, short answers, and at least on essay questions. The final exam will be in English

## Literature

The course will involve reading several assigned book chapters and research articles. These will be made available on Canvas.

## Additional Information

The maximum capacity for this course is 70 students.