



Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic Year	2026/2027	Semester	Summer
Study Program	University Master's Degree in Psychology	Specialization/ Major in	Psychology
		Year of Study	2

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Psychology of Lying and Deception		
Abbreviation		Code	
Status	Elective	ECTS	3
Prerequisites	No		
Total Course Workload			
Teaching Mode	Total Hours	Teaching Mode	Total Hours
Lectures	15	Seminars	15
		Auditory Exercises	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable		

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname	Sandra Nakić Radoš		
Academic Degree	PhD	Professional Title	Associate Professor
Contact E-mail	snrados@unicath.hr	Telephone	+385 (1) 3706 635
Office Hours	According to published timetable	Office	312

Course Collaborator

Name and Surname	Maja Žutić		
Academic Degree	PhD	Professional Title	Senior Assistant
Contact E-mail	maja.zutic@unicath.hr	Telephone	+385 (1) 3706 635
Office Hours	According to published timetable	Office	312

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language	English
Course Description	<p>Course objectives: The aim of the course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the psychological, social, and neurophysiological aspects of lying and deception, to develop the ability to critically analyse indicators of deceptive behaviour and evaluate different methods of lie detection, and to enable ethical and professional application of knowledge in practical and research contexts.</p> <p>Course content: Lying and Deception: Conceptualisation, Origin, Causes, and Functions. Cognitive, Emotional, and Neurophysiological Processes Behind Lying. Theoretical Models of Lying. Lying in Children and Adults in Different Contexts.</p>

Self-deception. Psychopathology of Lying and Deception. Deception in Forensic, Clinical, and Organisational Psychology. Emotions in the Human Face and Microexpressions. Non-Verbal Indicators of Deception. Verbal Indicators of Deception. Modern Methods of Lie Detection. Ethical Considerations in Psychology of Lying and Deception.

Expected Educational Outcomes

Critically evaluate cognitive, emotional, and neurophysiological mechanisms of lying and deception. Assess and compare major theoretical models of lying and deception. Analyse the specific ways deception manifests and impacts practice in forensic, clinical, and organisational psychology. Critically evaluate verbal and non-verbal indicators of deceptive behaviour. Evaluate strengths, limitations, and applicability of modern lie-detection methods. Demonstrate ethical and professional responsibility when interpreting and applying deception-related knowledge in practice.

Textbooks and Materials

Required

Earnest, W., McGlone, M., Knapp, M., & Griffin, D. (2019). *Lying and deception in human interaction (3rd ed.)*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company
 Denes, G. (2023). *The psychology of lying and misrepresentations: Behavioural, neuroscientific and neuropsychological perspectives*. Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003355892>
 Ekman, P. (2009). *Telling Lies: Clues to Deceit in the Marketplace, Politics, and Marriage (3rd ed.)*. W.W. Norton.
 Ekman, P. (2007). *Emotions revealed: Recognizing faces and feelings to improve communication and emotional life (2nd ed.)*. Henry Holt and Company.
 Vrij, A. (2008). *Detecting lies and deceit: Pitfalls and opportunities*. Wiley.

Supplementary

Clearfield, D. (2016). *Micro-expressions: Reading anyone's secret thoughts*. G. Stempien Publishing Company.
 Ekman, P. & Friesen, W. V. (2003). *Unmasking the face: A guide to recognizing emotions from facial clues*. Prentice-Hall.
 Ekman, P., Friesen, W. V., & Ellsworth, P. (2013). *Emotion in the human face: Guidelines for research and an integration of findings*. Pergamon Press.
 Ekman, P. & Friesen, W. V. (2003). *Facial Action Coding System (FACS): Manual*. Research Nexus.
 Street, C. N. H. (2023). *An Introduction to the Science of Deception and Lie Detection*. Routledge.

Examination and Grading

To Be Passed	Yes	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	No	Included in Average Grade	Yes
--------------	-----	-----------------------------------	----	---------------------------	-----

Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam Regular class attendance (minimum of 70% attendance)
 Obtaining a minimum of 35% points (out of a total of 100 points) during classes (Seminar work, Mid-term Colloquium, Class and Homework Activities)

Examination Manner

Teaching activities (70% of the grade):
 Seminar work – 30%
 Mid-term Colloquium – 30%
 Class and Homework Activities – 10%

Grading Manner

Final written exam – 30% of the grade (the minimum passing score on the written exam is 50% of correct answers):
 excellent (A) – 90 to 100% points
 very good (B) – 80 to 89.9% points
 good (C) – 65 to 79.9% points
 sufficient (D) – 50 to 64.9% points
 insufficient (F) – 0 to 49.9 % points

Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance	0.8	0
Seminar Presentation	0.66	30
Mid-term Colloquium	0.66	30
Class and Homework activities	0.22	10
Total in Class	2.34	70
Final Exam	0.66	30
TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)	3	100

Midterm Exam Dates

According to published timetable

Final Exam Dates

According to published timetable

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Lectures

Week	Topic
1.	Introductory Lecture
2.	Lying and Deception: Conceptualisation, Origin, Causes, and Functions
3.	Cognitive, Emotional, and Neurophysiological Processes Behind Lying
4.	Theoretical Models of Lying and Deception
5.	Lying in Children and Adults in Different Contexts
6.	Self-deception
7.	Psychopathology of Lying and Deception
8.	First Colloquium
9.	Deception in Forensic, Clinical, and Organisational Psychology
10.	Emotions in the Human Face and Microexpressions
11.	Non-Verbal Indicators of Deception
12.	Verbal Indicators of Deception
13.	Modern Methods of Lie Detection

14.	Ethical Considerations in Psychology of Lying and Deception
15.	Final Lecture
<i>Seminars</i>	
Week	Topic
1.	Introductory course and defining seminar topics
2.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
3.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
4.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
5.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
6.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
7.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
8.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
9.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
10.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
11.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
12.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
13.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
14.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
15.	Seminar presentation of the selected topic
<i>Auditory Exercises</i>	
Week	Topic
1.	Introductory exercises
2.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
3.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
4.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
5.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
6.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
7.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
8.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
9.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
10.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
11.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
12.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
13.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
14.	Exercises related to the lecture topic
15.	Exercises related to the lecture topic