



HRVATSKO  
KATOLICKO  
SVEUČILIŠTE  
ZAGREB  
UNIVERSITAS  
STUDIORUM  
CATHOLICA  
CROATICA  
ZAGREBIA

# Detailed Course Syllabus

**Academic year:**

2025/2026

**Semester:**

Summer semester

**Study programme:**

Psihologija (R) (elective)

**Year of study:**

2

## I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

**Name:** Psychology of Lying and Deception

**Abbreviation:** IZBD288

**ECTS:** 3

**Code:** 292057

**Prerequisites:** No

*Total Course Workload*

**Teaching Mode**

**Total Hours**

Lecture

15

Seminar

15

Auditory exercise

15

**Class Time and Place:** HKS - according to the published schedule

## II. TEACHING STAFF

*Course Holder*

**Name and Surname:** Nakić Radoš Sandra

**Academic Degree:**

**Professional Title:** izvanredni profesor

**Contact E-mail:**

[snrados@unicath.hr](mailto:snrados@unicath.hr)

**Telephone:**

**Office Hours:** According to the published schedule

*Course Assistant*

**Name and Surname:** Žutić Maja

**Academic Degree:**

**Professional Title:** viši asistent - predavač

**Contact E-mail:**

[maja.zutic@unicath.hr](mailto:maja.zutic@unicath.hr)

**Telephone:**

**Office Hours:** According to the published schedule

## III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

**Teaching Language:** English

<p><b>Course Description</b></p>	<p><b>Course objectives:</b> 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><b>Course content:</b> Lying and Deception: Conceptualisation, Origin, Causes, and Functions. Theoretical Models of Lying. Cognitive and Emotional Processes Behind Lying. Neurophysiological Mechanisms of Lying. Psychopathology of Lying. Lying in Children and Adults in Different Contexts. Deception in Forensic, Clinical, and Organisational Psychology. Emotions in the Human Face. Verbal Indicators of Deception. Non-Verbal Indicators of Deception and Microexpressions. Modern Methods of Lie Detection. Ethical Considerations in Psychology of Lying and Deception.</p>	
<p><b>Educational Outcomes</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p><i>Textbooks and Materials</i></p>		
<p><b>Required</b></p>	<p>Denes, G. (2023). <i>The psychology of lying and misrepresentations: Behavioural, neuroscientific and neuropsychological perspectives</i>. Routledge. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003355892">https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003355892</a></p> <p>Ekman, P. (2009). <i>Telling Lies: Clues to Deceit in the Marketplace, Politics, and Marriage</i> (3rd ed.). W.W. Norton.</p> <p>Ekman, P. (2007). <i>Emotions revealed: Recognizing faces and feelings to improve communication and emotional life</i> (2nd ed.). Henry Holt and Company.</p> <p>Vrij, A. (2008). <i>Detecting lies and deceit: Pitfalls and opportunities</i>. Wiley.</p>	
<p><b>Supplementary</b></p>	<p>Clearfield, D. (2016). <i>Micro-expressions: Reading anyone's secret thoughts</i>. G. Stempien Publishing Company.</p> <p>Ekman, P. &amp; Friesen, W. V. (2003). <i>Unmasking the face: A guide to recognizing emotions from facial clues</i>. Prentice-Hall.</p> <p>Ekman, P., Friesen, W. V., &amp; Ellsworth, P. (2013). <i>Emotion in the human face: Guidelines for research and an integration of findings</i>. Pergamon Press.</p> <p>Ekman, P. &amp; Friesen, W. V. (2003). <i>Facial Action Coding System (FACS): Manual</i>. Research Nexus.</p> <p>Street, C. N. H. (2023). <i>An Introduction to the Science of Deception and Lie Detection</i>. Routledge.</p>	
<p><i>Examination and Grading</i></p>		
<p><b>To Be Passed DA</b></p>	<p><b>Exclusively Continuous Assessment NE</b></p>	<p><b>Included in Average Grade DA</b></p>
<p><b>Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam</b></p>	<p>Regular class attendance (minimum of 70% attendance)</p> <p>Obtaining a minimum of 35% points (out of a total of 100 points) during classes (Seminar work, Mid-term Colloquium, Class and Homework Activities)</p>	

<b>Examination Manner</b>	<b>Teaching activities (70% of the grade):</b>
	Seminar work – 30% Mid-term Colloquium – 30% Class and Homework Activities – 10%
	<b>Final written exam – 30% of the grade</b> (the minimum passing score on the written exam is 50% of correct answers)

<b>Grading Manner</b>	<b>Final written exam – 30% of the grade</b> (the minimum passing score on the written exam is 50% of correct answers)
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<b>Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS</b>
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

## IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

*[Predavanja]*

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

*[Seminari]*

#	Topic
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1	Introductory lecture 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>[Vježbe]</i>	
<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>
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