



# Detailed Course Syllabus

**Academic year:**

2026/2027

**Semester:**

Summer semester

**Study programme:**

Psihologija (R) (elective)

**Year of study:**

2

## I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

**Name:** Psychology of Lying and Deception

**Abbreviation:** IZBD296

**ECTS:** 3

**Code:** 295166

**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:**

**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:**

**Contact E-mail:**

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**Telephone:**

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

## III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

**Teaching Language:** English

**Course Description**

**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.

**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. 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.

#### 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 DA                                              | Exclusively Continuous Assessment NE                                                                                                                                                                                  | Included in Average Grade DA |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam</b> | <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> | 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): |
|                           | 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                                                                                   |

|                       |                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grading Manner</b> | <b>Teaching activities (70% of the grade):</b> |
|                       | Seminar work – 30%                             |

| <b>Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS</b> |                                              |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ACTIVITY TYPE</b>                            | <b>ECTS Student<br/>Workload Coefficient</b> | <b>GRADE<br/>PERCENTAGE<br/>(%)</b> |
| Class Attendance                                | 0.8                                          | 0                                   |
| Seminar Presentation                            | 0.66                                         | 30                                  |
| Mid-term Colloquium                             | 0.66                                         | 30                                  |
| Class and Homework activities                   | 0.22                                         | 10                                  |
| <b>Total in Class</b>                           | <b>2.34</b>                                  | <b>70</b>                           |
| Final Exam                                      | 0.66                                         | 30                                  |
| <b>TOTAL ECTS<br/>(Classes + Final Exam)</b>    | <b>3</b>                                     | <b>100</b>                          |

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE</b> |
| [Predavanja]                     |

| #  | 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                                                         |