UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS COURSE CATALOGUE

Department of Psychology

COURSE TITLE: Science in crisis?		
Course instructor	Dr. Ljerka Ostojic	
Study level	Undergraduate study programme	
Status of the course	Elective	
Year of study	2nd and 3rd	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	6
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

The course focuses on the critical evaluation of contemporary issues in different scientific disciplines and the interplay of the different factors influencing these issues.

Due to the training and background of the lecturer, the emphasis will be on contemporary developments within life sciences, however, whenever appropriate and possible, we will also cover examples from other scientific disciplines (also depending on the students' own background and training).

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

Students in the 2nd and 3rd years of study of all study programmes can enroll in the course provided they satisfy the enrolment requirements/competencies.

- a good grasp of English – B2 level,
- willingness to engage with different theoretical, methodological and philosophical perspectives on science,
- willingness to think through and discuss one's own stance about science,
- being prepared that the course does not necessarily offer solutions or definite answers to the questions raised throughout the course (although we will work through various possibilities)

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

After completing the course, students are expected to be able to

- describe and critically evaluate what has become known as the 'credibility revolution' within psychological and related biological sciences. This includes questions and issues about replicability, reproducibility, validity and generalisability of empirical findings as well as recent movements that have formed as a result of these issues (e.g. metascience as a new research area; Open Science tools, multi-lab collaborations),
- discuss science as a situated endeavour (incl. academic structure, hiring and promotion, publishing systems, funding bodies),
- argue about claims of science in crisis from a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective,
- analyse how outcomes of science are perceived by the public and which factors influence these processes,
- critically evaluate claims in scientific articles,
- analyse examples of science communication,
- evaluate different Open Science tools, and discuss their benefits and challenges

1.4. Course content

Principles of science; Replicability/Replication crisis: claims, evidence, counterarguments, Replications:
types, value to science, challenges, Questionable Research Practices; contemporary issues
with validity and generalisation of scientific results; 'Credibility' movements: Meta-science,
large-scale collaborations, Open Science tools; Pre-registrations and registered reports; science as a situated activity within academia, science as a situated activity within society, science communication; fraud and error detection, dangers of a 'crisis' narrative at the individual level and at a societal
level

1.5. Manner of instruction

✓ Lectures
✓ Seminars and workshops
✓ Individual assignments
✓ Other: Supervisions