Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Psychology

Course Unit Title: Behavioral Genetics

Course Unit Code: 14ПСПС125

Name of Lecturer(s): Full Professor Snežana Smederevac, Full Professor Dušanka Mitrović

Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor Academic Degree

Course Status (compulsory/elective): Elective

Semester (winter/summer): Summer

Language of instruction: Serbian

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): face-to-face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 3

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge on individual differences and human genetics

Course Aims:

The aim of the course is to introduce students with the basic principles of modern molecular and quantitative behavioral genetics. Students are trained to understand methods of quantitative and molecular behavioral genetics research and to recognize the links between genotypic and phenotypic traits.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the principles of inheritance, basic findings in the field of molecular and quantitavie behavioral genetics, as well as the basic principles and methods within quantitative behavioral genetics.

Syllabus:

The process of inheritance - basic principles and mechanisms; Evolution and genetics; The basics of population genetics; Quantitative behavioral genetics - twin studies, adoptive studies, family studies; Types of environmental influences on psychological traits; Molecular behavioral genetics - studies of specific genes in different phenotypic manifestations; Genetic basis and environmental contributions to the development of personality traits, cognitive abilities, various mental disorders; Epigenetics.

Required Reading:

Смедеревац, С. и Митровић, Д. (2006). Личност - методи и модели. Београд: Центар за примењену психологију.

Туцић, Н. и Матић, Г. (2005). О генима и људима. Београд: Центар за примењену психологију.

Plomin, P., DeFries, J. C., McClearn, G. E. & McGuffin, P. (2008). Behavioral genetics. New York: Worth Publishers.

Kimberly J Saudino (2005) Behavioral genetics and child temperament. Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, 26, 214-223.

Weekly Contact Hours:	Lectures:	Practical work:
2 hours weekly	2 hours weekly	

Teaching Methods:

Lectures and student's presentations

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class	10	written exam	50
participation			

Practical work		oral exam	
Preliminary exam(s)			
Seminar(s)	40		

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.