

# IB258-15 Foundations of Human Sociality and Cooperation

26/27

**Department**

Warwick Business School

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Redzo Mujcic

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

Multiple

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This is an elective module available for WBS and non-WBS students. To find detailed availability and to apply for this module, log in to [my.wbs.ac.uk](http://my.wbs.ac.uk) using your normal IT login details and apply via the my.wbs module application system. Once you've secured a place on my.wbs you should apply via your home department's usual process, which usually takes place via eVision. Note that you do not require the module leader's permission to study a WBS module, so please do not contact them to request it.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

The principal module aims are: 1. To give a rigorous grounding in the key perspectives and theories of human sociality and cooperation, as well as the experimental evidence that underpins the field. 2. To allow students to critically read and evaluate major papers on the topics studied. 3. Understand the major strengths and weaknesses of human cooperation to improve decision making in public policy and business.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module will explore the origins and basis of human sociality and cooperation using an interdisciplinary approach that will include theories and empirical findings from psychology, economics, sociology, biology and anthropology. It will address evolutionary mechanisms, psychological mechanisms (from a developmental and comparative perspective) and societal mechanisms underlying human social and cooperative interactions. The module will address a variety of topics and questions such as: How does prosocial behaviour develop in life (ontogeny)? What are the evolutionary roots of human cooperation and morality? What is the role of social norms in societies? How can our knowledge about human sociality improve decisions in business and public policy? There will be nine key topics, which will align with the nine lectures:

- Cooperation in small-scale and large-scale societies
- Strategic Interactions and experimental economics
- Evolutionary Biology and Anthropology
- Evolution of cooperation
- Evolution of human cooperation
- Psychological mechanisms of cooperation I: Cognition a. Coordination & Communication
- Psychological mechanisms of cooperation II: Motivation, empathy and altruism
- Moral psychology
- Origins of Morality
- Modern approaches to moral psychology
- Societal mechanisms: norms and institutions
- Property and public goods
- Implications for Public Policy and Business.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand and be able to explain the cooperative structure of all human societies.
- Understand the puzzle of cooperation and altruism from an evolutionary perspective.
- Understand and be able to outline the major theories explaining (human) cooperation.
- Understand and articulate the psychological requirements for human social interactions, including coordination and communication.
- Critically evaluate the experimental evidence that underpins the development of human cooperative skills.
- Critically evaluate the experimental evidence that suggests similar psychological processes in other species, with special focus to closely related species (primates).
- Apply critical thinking in developing potential alternative explanations for empirical findings.
- Apply creativeness to think about potential new experimental designs that may help to tear apart alternative explanations.
- Evaluate and critically analyse the role of culture and social norms in human societies.

- Use the knowledge on the strengths and limitations of human sociality and cooperation to identify ways to improve decisions in public policy and business.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

Develop an understanding for the main functional advantages of cooperation, coordination and prosociality.

Develop an understanding for the main contextual variables that influence levels of prosociality and cooperation among humans.

Be aware of the limitations of human cooperation and the mechanisms that help to enforce and maintain social interactions and coordination between individuals.

## Transferable skills

Written and verbal skills to communicate knowledge and ideas.

Critical analysis of theories and experimental studies.

Research skills: learning to search for relevant literature, citing correctly other studies and ideas.

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## Study

### Study time

| Type                          | Required                   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lectures                      | 10 sessions of 1 hour (7%) |
| Seminars                      | 9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)  |
| Online learning (independent) | 10 sessions of 1 hour (7%) |
| Private study                 | 48 hours (32%)             |
| Assessment                    | 73 hours (49%)             |
| Total                         | 150 hours                  |

### Private study description

Private Study.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A3

|                                 | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Individual Assignment (15 CATS) | 90%       | 65 hours   | Yes (extension)                 |
| Participation (15 CATS)         | 10%       | 8 hours    | No                              |

### Assessment group R2

|                       | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Individual Assignment | 100%      |            | Yes (extension)                 |

### Feedback on assessment

Detailed written and verbal feedback will be provided to students during the lectures and seminars, as well as during office hours.

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## Availability

### Courses

Course availability information is based on the current academic year, so it may change.

This module is Core for:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CF Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Tripartite Pathway)
  - Year 2 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Optional for:

- UIBA-N20B BSc in Management
  - Year 2 of N20B Management

- Year 2 of N20B Management
- Year 2 of N23K Management with Accounting
- Year 2 of N234 Management with Digital Business
- Year 2 of N235 Management with Entrepreneurship
- Year 2 of N232 Management with Finance
- Year 2 of N252 Management with Marketing
- Year 2 of N23L Management with Strategy and Organisation
- Year 1 of UIOA-EEU Undergraduate EU Exchange
- Year 2 of UGEA-RN21 Undergraduate German and Business Studies
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N2 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- UIBA-N20F Undergraduate International Management
  - Year 2 of N20F International Management
  - Year 2 of N20F International Management
  - Year 2 of N20S International Management (with Accounting)
  - Year 2 of N20T International Management (with Chinese)
  - Year 2 of N20P International Management (with Entrepreneurship)
  - Year 2 of N20M International Management (with Finance)
  - Year 2 of N20U International Management (with French)
  - Year 2 of N20L International Management (with Marketing)
  - Year 2 of N20V International Management (with Spanish)
  - Year 2 of N20W International Management (with Strategy and Organisation)
  - Year 2 of N20N International Management with Digital Business
  - Year 2 of N20E Management (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 2 of N234 Management with Digital Business
- UIBA-N20J Undergraduate Management (with Foundation Year and Placement Year/Undergraduate Partnership Programme)
  - Year 3 of N20J Management (Foundation Year and Placement)
  - Year 3 of N20K Management (Foundation Year and UPP)
  - Year 3 of N23H Management with Digital Business (with Foundation Year and Placement Year)
  - Year 3 of N23J Management with Entrepreneurship (with Foundation Year and Placement Year)
  - Year 3 of N23G Management with Finance (with Foundation Year and Placement Year)
  - Year 3 of N255 Management with Marketing (with Foundation Year and Placement Year)
- UIBA-N20E Undergraduate Management (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 3 of N20E Management (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 3 of N23N Management with Accounting (with Foundation Year and Placement Year)
  - Year 3 of N23M Management with Accounting (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 3 of N23E Management with Digital Business (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 3 of N23F Management with Entrepreneurship (with Foundation Year)
  - Year 3 of N23D Management with Finance (with Foundation Year)

- Year 3 of N252 Management with Marketing
- Year 3 of N254 Management with Marketing (with Foundation Year)
- Year 3 of N23P Management with Strategy and Organisation (with Foundation Year)
- UIBA-N20C Undergraduate Management (with Placement Year/Undergraduate Partnership Programme)
  - Year 2 of N20M International Management (with Finance)
  - Year 2 of N20B Management
  - Year 2 of N20D Management (Undergraduate Partnership Programme)
  - Year 2 of N20C Management (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N20Q Management with Accounting (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N236 Management with Digital Business (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N235 Management with Entrepreneurship
  - Year 2 of N237 Management with Entrepreneurship (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N232 Management with Finance
  - Year 2 of N233 Management with Finance (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N253 Management with Marketing (with Placement Year)
  - Year 2 of N23L Management with Strategy and Organisation
  - Year 2 of N20R Management with Strategy and Organisation (with Placement Year)
- UIOA-EOS Undergraduate Overseas Exchange
  - Year 1 of UEOS Undergraduate Overseas Exchange
  - Year 1 of UEOS Undergraduate Overseas Exchange
- Year 1 of UIOA-EUS Undergraduate USA Exchange