## **Group Management: Methods and Techniques**

## Prof. Maria Teresa Aceti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

***Course aims***

The course aims to provide students with:

– in-depth knowledge of the various theoretical perspectives of the group and the working group, as well as the operating processes and phenomena, both conscious and unconscious, that characterise them;

– an ability to recognise the different forms of groups and their different uses depending on the objectives and context within which the group develops;

– a setting to experiment with the ways of conducting a group at its different stages (constitution - preparation - organisation - execution of a working group - verification).

***Intended learning outcomes***

At the end of the course, students will know the different theoretical perspectives of the group and the working group and will know how to recognise types of groups and their different uses.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to know the main methods for managing group processes, with particular reference to the working group. They will be able to recognise the main group dynamics as well as the roles and phases that characterise working groups in particular, useful knowledge for applying in practice.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The group will be considered from a theoretical, technical, and applied perspective, in order to encourage learning from experience.

The theoretical teaching covering the principal researchers of groups (Bion, Pichon Riviere, Jaques, Napolitani, Kaes, etc.), will be coupled with tutorials in which students may experiment with the different stages of a group's life and take on the different roles of conductor/observer/participant.

The group discussion will be coupled with the theory in a way that fosters reworkings and comparisons among course participants.

Specifically, the programme will be arranged as follows:

Unit 0: Introduction to the Psychology of Group Relations

* The psychosocial approach to groups (the group as a promoter of change, the importance of context)
* The psychoanalytic approach to groups (group dynamics, Bion and the basic assumptions, Foulkes, Psychosociology)
* group practical exercises on the contents of Unit 0

Unit 1: Standing and conducting groups

* Starting a group
* Productivity, decision-making and group conflicts
* Defensive signals from a group
* Group practical exercises on the contents of Unit 1

Unit 2: Group leadership

* Phases of groupwork
* Functions of conduction in each phase
* Context and conduction dynamics
* Conduction vs leadership
* Group practical exercises on the contents of Unit 2

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be in oral form, comprising an interview aimed at assessing students' knowledge and ability to reread the practical exercises in light of the theoretical contents presented in class. The assessment will focus on the correctness of the student's answers, their appropriate use of the specific terminology, the reasoned and coherent structuring of their discourse, and their ability to identify conceptual links and open questions and formulate hypotheses for intervention. There is a single final mark.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

*Reading list for the path based on lecture contents:*

Students will prepare by studying the lecture notes and materials published on the Blackboard platform, supported by the following texts:

A. Bertoni, *Passi di gruppo*, Ed. San Paolo, 2021

G. Del Rio-M. Luppi, *Gruppo e relazione d’aiuto* Franco Angeli, 2010.

[*Bought from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/gianni-del-rio-maria-luppi/gruppo-e-relazione-daiuto-saperi-competenze-emozioni-9788856817720-256150.html)

*For the text-based path*

Students will prepare by studying the following texts:

A. Bertoni, *Passi di gruppo*, Ed. San Paolo, 2021

G. Del Rio-M. Luppi, *Gruppo e relazione d’aiuto* Franco Angeli, 2010.

C. Kaneklin, *Il gruppo in teoria e in pratica,* Cortina, 2010. [*Bought from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/gianni-del-rio-maria-luppi/gruppo-e-relazione-daiuto-saperi-competenze-emozioni-9788856817720-256150.html)

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes lectures, supplemented by multimedia presentations and the analysis of texts and audiovisual material. The frontal lectures will be coupled with practical tutorials that include the direct involvement of students. Experiences and case studies will be used to link the theory to practice. A blackboard will be activated on which students will be able to find all the teaching material produced during the course and any useful material for exam preparation.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral exam, involving an interview aimed at assessing the student's theoretical knowledge and ability to reinterpret the tutorials in light of the theoretical contents presented in class. The assessment will focus on the relevance of the student's answers, their appropriate use of the specific terminology, the reasoned and coherent structuring of their discourse, and their ability to identify conceptual links and open questions. There is a single final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must possess a basic knowledge of the concepts of Social Psychology. For those students attending lectures, the prerequisites for achieving the course objectives are punctuality and regular attendance at the theoretical lectures and tutorials.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)