# . - Community Psychiatry

## Prof. Graziano Valent

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

The course offers a cognitive model of psychological-psychiatric care at a territorial level. The aim is to provide students with adequate theoretical, practical and ethical preparation to act effectively in thecomplex care of the psychiatric patient. Through a composite phenomenological-dialectical grid, the course will teach students about the morphology and meaning of world-views, of toxic and practical attitudes, the languages of mental disorders and of therapeutic methods in treatment settings.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

recognise the anthropological meanings of madness and the existential and social dimension of the therapeutic relationship;

describe the main models of approach to madness and psychiatric care, and identify the strengths and limitations of each theoretical orientation;

master the categories and operating methods of the dialectical-relational approach in psychiatry;

know the semantics of the procedures and organisational methods that characterise treatments in the institutional setting.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

express historical-critical competence in the disciplinary systems and methods of treating madness;

apply the theoretical assumptions and methodological variations of the dialectical-relational approach in the care relationship with the psychiatric patient;

evaluate and discern possible operational strategies for the complexity and variability of psychopathological conditions;

exercise a capacity for group planning and therapeutic intervention control in community psychiatry;

demonstrate honed linguistic competence and communication skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Unit 1: Historical-critical elements**

* 1. **The birth of Psychiatry**

From insanity to mental illness

Michel Foucault and "disciplinary power"

The relativisation of the scientific paradigm

* 1. **From the asylum to Law 180**

The theoretical and practical revolution of Franco Basaglia

Twentieth century transformations in the psychiatric paradigm

* 1. **Italian psychiatry after Law 180**

The new mental health services

**Unit 2: Theoretical-methodological elements**

**2.1 Main approaches to the madness of modern thought**

Monistic-scientific model

Phenomenological-existential approach

Critical-genealogical approach

**2.2** **Dialectical-relational analytics**

Identity and alienation

Reality and possibility

Dialectics of pain

* Contradiction and mental pain
* Desire-destiny relationship

**2.3 Semantics and hermeneutics of communication**

Relations and denial

Alliance and conflict

"Simulation" heuristics

**Unit 3: Psychological-psychiatric elements**

**3.1 Intra-psychic and inter-psychic conflicts**

Analysis of the individual sphere

Analysis of the family context

Analysis of the social sphere

**3.2** **The** **dialectical-relational therapeutic relationship**

Dynamics of the psychotic crisis

* The language of delusion
* Sense and non-sense

Problems of clinical diagnosis

Listening and reciprocity in the therapeutic relationship

Ostensive practice in the socialisation of madness

**3.3** **Mental health and community**

Local psychiatric service models

* Clinical service
* Ethical service

Dynamics of the dialectical treating group

Psychiatric rehabilitation and "practices of possibility"

***READING LIST***

All students will prepare through the study of the following texts.

Compulsory texts

1) I. Valent– S. Piro – A. Tagliapietra – C. Bologna – R. Galluccio – M.R. Tinti – G. Valent, *Esercitazioni sulla follia. L’approccio dialettico-relazionale in psichiatria,* a cura di G. Valent, Moretti&Vitali, Bergamo, 2013.

2) M.R. Tinti, *Virgole inesauste. Figure di follia e di cura sulla scena dialettica della vita,* Moretti&Vitali, Bergamo, 2018.

Optional texts

C. Iannotta, *Due racconti dal sottosuolo. La follia come stile di vita,* Moretti&Vitali, Bergamo, 2009.

M. Foucault, *Il potere psichiatrico,* Feltrinelli, Milano, 2004.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, group discussions, connectional practical classes (didactic learning activities that, for the humanities, are like workshops for the natural sciences), film clips, testimonies of operators and psychiatric patients.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral interview in which students will have to demonstrate the ability to orient themselves between the fundamental issues and the topics addressed in lectures. 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.

The interview focuses on the contents of the adopted texts: study of the 4 chapters from *Esercitazioni sulla follia* is required; the other adopted text, *Virgole inesauste*, needs to be read in detail. In addition, students are required to write an essay (maximum 3 pages) commenting on one of the 4 stories that make up the text *Virgole inesauste*: it is not a question of summarising the chosen clinical case, but of personally reworking the fundamental theoretical and operational meanings, and connecting the events narrated to the issues addressed in class. This essay (which does not have the value of a written exam) will be discussed during the exam and must be emailed to the lecturer 10 days before the exam date.

Overall assessment considers the student's degree of knowledge congruence with the course contents, their ability to connect topics and synergise theoretical and practical factors, the terminological correctness of their presentation, and their argumentative skills.

The final mark is based 30% on the discussion of the essay written on one of the *Virgole inesauste* stories (generally 1 question), and 70% on the answers to questions on the topics covered in *Esercitazioni sulla follia* (generally 2 questions).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. An interest in the clinical and ethical dimension of the discipline and in philosophical and anthropological reflection is assumed.

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.