# Clinical Psychology of Family and Social Bonds

## Prof. Giancarlo Tamanza

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

The course takes a clinical approach to the key theories on bonds, both the ontological and meta-psychological bases and the practical applications. Starting with phenomenological analysis of various kinds of bonds (intrapsychic, interpersonal family, social, institutional), the course will focus particularly on analysing the interconnections, both real and symbolic, between these different types and with the building of personal subjectivity.

Couple and family relationships will be studied particularly closely, with particular reference to research undertaken at the *Centro Studi e Ricerche sulla Famiglia dell’Università Cattolica*. The “Relational-symbolic” model will be compared with other clinical approaches to family bonds, both in theory and practice.

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

1. Knowledge and understanding:

* know the fundamental concepts of the main theories of family functioning;
* understand the essential elements of relational clinical care.

1. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

* analyse a family- and couple-related clinical problem from the Relational-Symbolic perspective, establishing a diagnostic-evaluation path and formulating interpretative hypotheses;
* apply a number of relational tools that can be used in research and clinical intervention.

1. Communication skills:

* critically present a clinical reading of a family situation;
* draw up a summary relational diagnostic report in an appropriate and clinically argued form.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course deals with the fundamental topics of family clinical care, from the epistemic and theoretical foundations to clinical applications.

* Unit 1: The ontological and meta-psychological foundations of the bond and the connection with personal subjectivity;
* Unit 2: The distinctive elements of bond-oriented clinical care;
* Unit 3: Historical and epistemic developments of family therapy;
* Unit 4: The clinical care of family ties: crises and transitions

4.a the establishment of the couple

4.b parenting

4.c adolescent children

4.d chronic illness and death

4.e separation and the reconstituted family;

* Unit 5: The distinctive identity of the family and the relational-symbolic orientation;
* Unit 6: Methods and tools for diagnosing and clinically intervening with couples and families

6.a The Genogram

6.b The Generational Clinical Interview

6.c The Joint Design of the Family

6.d The Family Life Space;

* Unit 7: Clinical interventions in judicial contexts

7.a Technical Consultancy in the judicial proceedings of separation and divorce

7.b The judicial evaluation in adoptability procedures and for declaring suitability for adoption.

***READING LIST***

Compulsory texts for the written part of the exam

S. Molgora - F. Facchin - C. Fusar Poli, *La clinica familiare.* *La storia,* *i fondamenti, i modelli.* Provided by the course. EduCatt, 2012.

V. Cigoli, E. Scabini, M. Gennari, G. Tamanza, *Legami generazionali. Strumenti di assessment clinico,* Edra, Milano, 2018.

G. Tamanza, *Interventi clinici con la coppia in separazione,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2017.

For the oral part of the exam

One of the following:

E. Scabini- V. Cigoli, *Alla ricerca del famigliare.* *Il modello relazionale simbolico. Raffaello Cortina,* Milano, 2012.

M. Gennari - M. Mombelli - L. Pappalardo - G. Tamanza - L. Tonellato, *La consulenza tecnica familiare nei procedimenti di separazione e divorzio,* Franco Angeli, Milano, 2014.

M. Andolfi, (edited by) *I pionieri della terapia familiare,* Franco Angeli, Milano, 2005.

D. Toffanelli, P. Bentrando, *Storia della terapia familiare: le persone e le idee,* Raffaello Cortina*,* Milano, 2001.

One of the following:

V. Cigoli-G. Tamanza, *L’Intervista Clinica Generazionale,* Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2009

M. Gennari - G. Tamanza, *Il disegno familiare congiunto.* *Uno strumento per l’analisi delle relazioni familiari,* Franco Angeli, Milano, 2012

S. Montagano, A. Pazzagli, *Il genogramma. Teatro di alchimie familiari*, Franco Angeli, 2002

C. Bogliolo, D. Capone, A. Puleggio, *Dalla scultura alla rappresentazione spaziale della famiglia*, Armando Editore, Roma, 2012

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes both *theoretical lectures* by the lecturer, and *class and group work* by students. Theory lectures will examine links and relationships as a subject of intervention and research, along with the principal models of clinical intervention directed toward couples and families.

The practical work will, in contrast, focus on a number of crucial issues in couple and family relationships that students will be asked to deal with through the analysis of clinical material and the application of assessment tools.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of two parts: a written test and an oral test.

The written test requires students to prepare a short theoretical-clinical paper which will ascertain their understanding of the theoretical and applicative issues addressed during the course and, in particular, their references to the reading list texts. The paper must be uploaded to the Blackboard platform no later than one week before the exam date.

The oral exam will discuss the written paper and the topics covered in the two texts chosen by the student from those indicated in the reading list.

Assessment considers: students' ability to present a critical, and not purely mnemonic, formulation of the contents; relevance and completeness of their answers; their appropriate use of specific terminology; reasoned and coherent structuring of argumentation; and their ability to identify conceptual links and open questions.

The final mark is based 50% on the mark for the written test and 50% on that for the oral interview.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must possess a basic knowledge of Clinical Psychology as a prerequisite for the course.

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.