# . - Social Psychology

## Prof. Maura Pozzi

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

The course aims to teach students the critical theory underpinning the foundations of social psychology, and to develop in them a critical reading of the contents, approaches and psycho-social theories. These objectives will be pursued through:

– A conjugation between the European and American matrices of the discipline;

– Ongoing consideration of the connection between cognitive, affective and behavioural aspects;

– Highlighting the application effects of the constructs and theories considered.

*Knowledge and understanding*

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

* Know the terminology and lexicon of the discipline as well as the main theories;
* Reformulate what they've learnt and undertake a debate based on the theories learned.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:*

At the end of the course, students will be able to, with the assistance of a supervisor, re-read social situations and dynamics in light of the course contents learned.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be structured around three macro-areas.

The first will present the historical-conceptual development of the discipline, its definition and the specifics of "doing research" in social psychology.

The second major thematic area of the discipline will be addressed: a) social perception, that is, the study of how people come to know themselves and the others, groups and contexts with and in which they live, and b) social influence, that is, all those processes of personal change brought about by the real or symbolic presence of others.

The third will address social relations: a) all those relationships and processes that emerge from a group membership; and b) how these memberships determine the attitudes and behaviours of individuals and inter-group processes, i.e. those concerning relations between groups.

The course will structure the aforementioned three macro-areas around the following work units:

Unit 1: The origins of social psychology within the European and American matrix

Unit 2: Research methods for social psychology

Unit 3: The concept of self and its formation

Unit 4: The processes of social perception

Unit 5: Attitudes and behaviours

Unit 6: Social influence

Unit 7: Persuasion

Unit 8: Interactions in groups

Unit 9: Prejudice

Unit 10: Significant interpersonal relationships

Unit 11: Prosocial behaviours

Unit 12: Conflict and resolution styles

Unit 13: Environmental sustainability

***READING LIST***

D. G. Myers - J. M. Twenge - E. Marta, M. Pozzi, *Psicologia sociale,* Mc Graw Hill, Milan, 2023.

One text to be chosen from the following:

S. Alfieri, *La natura (familiare) del pregiudizio,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2013 (in PDF format, only Online).

L. Arcuri-M. Cadinu, *Gli stereotipi: Dinamiche psicologiche e contesto delle relazioni sociali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011.

N. Cavazza, *Psicologia degli atteggiamenti e delle opinioni,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2005.

T. Mancini, *Psicologia dell’identità etnica. Sé e appartenenze culturali,* Carocci, Rome, 2010 (first and second part).

A. Palmonari-F. Emiliani (eds.), *Paradigmi delle rappresentazioni sociali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009 (chps. 1-2-3-6).

A. Palmonari-N. Cavazza, *Ricerche e protagonisti della psicologia sociale,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2012 (chps. 2-3-5-6-7).

A. Mucchi Faina, *La psicologia collettiva. Storia e problemi,* Carocci, Roma, 2002.

The exam material will cover the basic manual, the text of choice, and the lecture notes and slides available on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. During some lectures, students will be offered short individual or small group tutorials.

To facilitate a more in-depth study of the discipline's contents, students will be offered the opportunity to participate in single topic tutorials in addition to the standard course hours. The work will be organised in small groups and will require the active participation of participants. For those attending the tutorials, the text of choice will be replaced by a collection of articles and contributions (which will be indicated at the beginning of the tutorials) and the final document produced by the workgroup.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will consist of a written and an oral test focusing on the texts indicated in the appropriate section of the Faculty Guide published on the website [www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it/).

The written test and the oral test will be held in the same session:

- the written test consists of: section A - thirty multiple-choice questions; section B - an open-ended question. Students will pass the assessment if they receive a sufficient mark in both sections. The average of the marks for the two sections constitutes the mark with which the student takes the oral exam;

- the oral test, which may only be taken after passing the written test. The oral test can result in an increase or decrease of 0 to (+/-) 3 marks in the assessment of the written test. If students display obvious gaps during the oral test, they may be asked to retake the test in another exam session.

Through the written test, students will have to demonstrate their knowledge of the key constructs of the discipline covered in the course and well illustrated in the manual; the oral interview will require them to demonstrate their ability to orient themselves with the theories presented in class, described in the manual and explored more deeply in the text of their choice, as well as connect and reread them critically. For students who choose to participate in the tutorials proposed at the beginning of the course, the oral interview will focus on the manual and the tutorial materials.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, a degree of interest and intellectual curiosity is assumed, especially during lectures.

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.