# . - Psychology of Interventions in the Community

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

The course has a triple objective: firstly, to teach students the skills for designing and evaluating clinical-social interventions in communities (territorial, value-based, relational), secondly to teach intervention methods for working with individuals, groups, services and associations in different community contexts. Lastly, the course aims to encourage "learning from experience" in the case of some contents, through interactions with the territory.

*Knowledge and understanding*

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

* Know the theoretical approaches and constructs underlying working with communities;
* Know the tools for interpreting community contexts;
* Know the approaches for designing and socially evaluating community interventions.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

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

* Apply methods and tools and conduct an appropriate demand analysis;
* Design and carry out an intervention research study as well as compile tenders;
* Apply the logic of the community approach to working with locally present services and networks.

*Autonomous judging skills*

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

* Manage the complexity of analysing communities, and critically judge the reading and interpretation of the relevant scientific literature;
* Formulate independent and critical judgments on the basis of observational or instrumental data relating to community interventions, also taking into account the professional ethics principles formulated by the Order of Psychologists.

*Communication skills*

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

* Communicate effectively with: clients, people, stakeholders, organisations and associations from and in the community;
* Possess the skills and communication abilities for communicating effectively with colleagues from other disciplines.

*Learning skills*

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

* Continually update their knowledge, independently learning the most recent developments and contributions of national and international scientific research in the field of community psychology;
* Learn from daily experience and from collaboration with more mature colleagues and professionals from other disciplines as well.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The leitmotif of the course will be an analysis of the social bond, in which malaise may arise but where prevention or promotional interventions can also be initiated aimed at a) improving quality of life on a personal, interpersonal and social level, and b) producing community development. A relational perspective will be taken, in the belief that the care and regeneration of social ties is a prerequisite for developing good quality of life and a competent community. The methodological perspective assumed by the course is that of action research, understood as a transformative action of people and communities/territories starting from the analysis of the symbolic-emotional system underlying interpersonal, social and community relationships.

In detail, three major topics will be addressed:

- **defining and interpreting the community**: the guiding principles of community psychology, theoretical approaches, action research, and the tools for getting to know the community (e.g. social recognition, profiles, focus groups).

*Unit 1: Origins and theoretical framework*

- History and development of community psychology

- The guiding principles of community psychology

- The ecological metaphor

*Unit 2: The basic constructs/processes*

- Sense of community

- Community empowerment

- Participation

- Social support

- Health promotion

- Generativity and the relaunching of social ties: generative communities vs non-generative communities

*Unit 3: Methods and tools*

- Participatory action research with communities

- Getting to know the community: Social recognition, profiles and photo voices

- Tools for working with communities (focus groups, world café ...)

- **planning and evaluating** community interventions:

*Unit 4: Social planning*

- The critical issues of planning

- Approaches to social planning: planning, problem-solving, dialogic-participatory

- Approaches to social evaluation: planning, problem-solving, dialogic-participatory

- Evaluation research

- **developing clinical-social interventions** aimed at local territories: specifically, and including an ecological perspective, the areas of community crisis (personal, interpersonal and social level) will be analysed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic experiences.

**- developing clinical-social interventions aimed at local areas**

*Unit 5: Interventions in crisis areas and health promotion*

- Examples of interventions

- Local level intervention planning development

***READING LIST***

Manuals

- AA.VV *Psicologia di comunita': prospettive e concetti chiave*, Franco Angeli, Milano 2021.

AA.VV*. Psicologia di comunita': metodologia  e strumenti*, Franco Angeli, Milano 2021.

One text to be chosen from among:

* C. Arcidiacono - G. Ferrari Bravo, *Legami resistenti,* Milano, Angeli, 2009 (cap. 1-4; 12-14, e 2 2 of your choice of chapters from 5-11).
* A. Giorgi-S. Giunta-E. Coppola-G. Lo Verso, *Territori in controluce. Ricerche psicologiche sul fenomeno mafioso,* Angeli, Milano, 2009.
* A. Giorgi, *Mai più nell'ombra. Vittime di mafia: dalla conoscenza all'intervento psicologico,* F. Angeli, Milano, 2019.
* E. Marta-M. Santinello (eds.), *Il Mentoring. una lettura in ottica di psicologia di comunità,* Unicopli, Milan, 2010.
* D. Marzana, *Volontari si diventa,* Milan, Vita e Pensiero, 2011.
* P. Mastrilli - R. Nicosia - M. Santinello, *Photovoice. Dallo scatto fotografico all’azione sociale,* Milan, Angeli, 2013.
* G. Mazzoli - N. Spadoni, *Piccole imprese globali. Una comunità locale costruisce servizi per le famiglie,* Milan, Angeli, 2009.
* T. Tuozzi, *Profilo di comunità. Risorse e potenzialità di Carinola,* Naples, Edizioni Melagrana, 2013
* E. Ripamonti – D. Boniforti, *Metodi collaborativi. Strumenti per il lavoro sociale e di comunità*. Torino, Edizioni Gruppo Abele, 2020

In addition to the basic manual and the text of your choice, the exam material will also comprise the lecture notes and lecture slides, available online on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course offers innovative teaching that will alternate theoretical lessons with experiential learning opportunities in the Brescia area. Traditional frontal lectures will be accompanied by the students' individual study (which, from time to time, will include being taught how to apply the contents they've learned "from experience") in a local experiment and classroom supervision. There will also be interventions by professionals working in the field who will present cases, research and interventions of particular importance and interest.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral exam involving the presentation and discussion of the topics addressed a) in the texts indicated and chosen from the reference reading list, and indicated in the in the specific section of the Faculty Guide published on the website [www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it/) and b) in the work carried out during the course.

The assessment will focus on the student's acquisition of knowledge and skills as well as their ability to reread what they learned in the course, their appropriate use of terminology, their ability to apply the knowledge acquired, their ability to identify conceptual links, as well as the relevance and completeness of their answers.

Low/medium-low scores on the assessment criteria will lead to an assessment between 18 and 23; medium/medium-high scores will result in an assessment between 24 and 27; and medium-high/high scores will lead to an assessment between 28 and 30 cum laude.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, knowledge of the contents of the Social Psychology, Work and Organisational Psychology and Dynamic Psychology courses, as well as knowledge of the functioning of groups is assumed.

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