# . – Psychology of Groups

## Prof. Cristina Giuliani

***COURSE CONTENT AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the basic elements of Psychology of Groups so that conceptual categories may help them to understand group phenomena. In addition, the course aims to present the value of groups as a useful tool for psycho-social intervention.

***Knowledge and understanding ability***

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

* identify the main theoretical orientations in the field of social psychology of groups;
* define the main intra- and inter-group processes;
* describe the interactions between individual and context, by distinguishing interpersonal, intergroup, and social dimensions.

***Ability to apply knowledge and understanding***

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

* analyse group in phenomena different fields and social contexts;
* use group process analysis tools and grids;
* develop critical reflections in reading group phenomena and one's own group experiences (working and others);
* have useful elements for planning interventions that use the group as a working tool.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The first part of the course presents a theoretical framework of the concept of groups by analysing the main theoretical approaches and the latest research results on group dynamics. In addition, the course explores in detail aspects concerning the structure of groups, and the processes which take place within and between groups. The second part of the course deals with the use of the group as a useful tool for psycho-social intervention; in particular, there will be examples of some intervention programmes and techniques based on the use of group methodology. Furthermore, the course focuses on some basic elements and techniques for conducting the various stages of the life cycle of group.

***READING LIST***

1. R. Brown. *Psicologia sociale dei gruppi.* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2005. (the specified chs. in Bb).
2. A. Bertoni. *Passi di gruppo. Saper stare nei gruppi, saper condurre gruppi.* Gruppo editoriale San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2021.
3. Slides and course materials available on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

As well as frontal lectures, the course includes exercises designed to promote active learning of processes and interpersonal and group dynamics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students’ learning will be assessed through an oral exam lasting 20 minutes aimed at verifying: a) discipline knowledge, b) concept mastery; c) correct presentation, (these first three aspects contribute to 70% of the value in the final assessment); d) the ability to critically re-elaborate the contents as well as the ability to apply them to the various areas of social life (30% of the value in the final assessment).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since it is an introductory course, there are no content-related prerequisites for attending it. It enhances the students’ active role during the lessons and the practical exercises.

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.