# Family Social Psychology

## Prof Rosa Rosnati; Prof. Laura Ferrari

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

**Course aims**

The aim of the course is to provide students with the theoretical knowledge and a critical interpretation of the fundamentals of social psychology and of the main theories in this field, with specific reference to group processes. Subsequently, there will be an in-depth analysis of a specific historical group, namely the family. There will be a focus on the fundamental elements of the family in social psychology from a relational perspective and on the key aspects of family identity and its main transitions.

**Intended learning outcomes**

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, it is expected that students will have acquired knowledge on the main constructs and theories of social psychology and social psychology of the family; will be able to show that they have acquired a greater awareness of the complexity of social and family situations in the present cultural context.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students must be aware of the practical implications of acquired theoretical knowledge and be capable of applying it for the design and implementation of interventions promoting family ties.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The first part of the course will cover the main themes of social psychology, such as self-perception and perception of others, intra-group and inter-group processes, social influence, conformism, leadership, stereotypes and prejudice, discrimination, conflict, aggression and prosocial behaviour.

The second part of the course, following the presentation of the definition and development of the theoretical matrices of social psychology of the family, will tackle two fundamental issues: family identity (definition of the family) and its transitions (cultural changes and family life cycle). The relational symbolic approach will be adopted to address the relational dynamics of the main family transitions: the formation of the couple and marriage bond, first birth and parenting, child launching and old age. Moreover, there will be an in-depth presentation of specific transitions: separation and divorce, migration, fostering and adoption, and some topics such as medically assisted reproduction, same-sex parenting and recomposed families will be briefly mentioned. Finally, the possible operational implications of these topics will be highlighted and some prevention programmes aimed at launching support programmes with and for families will be presented.

***READING LIST***

Students may choose between two optional pathways :

1. Pathway based on the content of lectures and on texts
2. Pathway based on the content of lectures, texts and on a series of exercises
3. **For the pathway based on the content of lectures and on texts:**

Exam prepararation material includes lecture slides that will be made available online on the Blackboard platform. Students will complement this material with the following texts:

D.G. Myers, J. Twenge, E. Marta, M. Pozzi., *Psicologia sociale,* Mc Graw Hill, Milan, new edition 2022 (excluding Par. 4.2.3; excluding Chaps. 1, 2, 5 , 7, 10 and 13).

E. Scabini-R. Iafrate, *Psicologia dei legami familiari,* Il Mulino, Bologna, new edition, 2019. (excluding par. 1.2 e 1.3 and Chap. 9).

*One text to be chosen in one of the following fields:*

In the field of social psychology:

Bocchiaro P., *Psicologia del male*. Edizioni Laterza, Bari, 2009.

Volpato, C., Deumanizzazione: Come si legittima la violenza. Editori Laterza, Bari, 2014.

In the field of the family in social psychology:

Danioni F. V., & Regalia C., *" Io ti ringrazio": Coltivare la gratitudine per il benessere di tutti,* Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2020.

Comelli I., Ranieri S., *La coppia on the road. Il legame di coppia di fronte alle sfide del ciclo di vita*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2015.

1. **For the pathway based on the content of lectures, texts and on a series of exercises:**

Exam prepararation material includes lecture slides that will be made available online on the Blackboard platform. Students will complement this material with the following texts:

D.G. Myers, J. Twenge, E. Marta, M. Pozzi., *Psicologia sociale,* Mc Graw Hill, Milan, new edition 2022 (excluding Par. 4.2.3; excluding Chaps. 1, 2, 5 , 7, 10 and 13).

E. Scabini, R. Iafrate, *Psicologia dei legami familiari,* Il Mulino, Bologna, new edition 2019 (excluding par 1.2 and 1.3 and Chap. 9).

Moreover, students will be asked to participate in a series of exercises in small groups on the subject of social psychology and social psychology of the family. Students will prepare themselves by studying the emerged content and the produced material.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists in frontal lectures in the classroom during which the various theoretical topics and some empirical research will be presented. Furthermore, brief individual or small group exercises and some videos will be proposed to students and some field experience will be presented, also with the participation of external professionals who work in this field.

In order to facilitate learning and in-depth study of the contents of this discipline, students will also have the opportunity to participate in a series of exercises in small groups which entail the active involvement of students.

A Blackboard platform will be activated on which students will be able to access all the teaching material produced during the course and possible other material useful for the preparation of the exam.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists in

* a final test – including two open-ended questions and the definition of three terms
* an oral test on all the programme and on the book selected by the students (or alternatively on the attended exercise sessions).

In the written exam, the assessment criteria will include students’ disciplinary knowledge, the ability to understand phenomena referring to existing research findings, as well as proficiency in the lexicon and clarity of presentation. During the oral interview, the assessment will be based on students’ self-reflection skills on the presented topics, the ability to make connections and to highlight possible operational aspects and to set guidelines for intervention. Students who decide to participate in classroom activities proposed during the course, will also have the opportunity to illustrate the work carried out in the classroom during the oral test. Students who decide to participate in the exercises proposed during the course, will be also requested to illustrate the work carried out during exercises in the oral test.

The two open-ended questions and the three definitions included in the written test will be marked out of thirty and the resulting average mark will be the starting point for taking the oral exam.

The outcome of the oral test may increase or decrease the mark of the written test by a maximum of three points. The written and oral tests must be taken on the same exam date. Students must have passed the written test in order to take the oral exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for students to attend the course,

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.