# Psychodynamics

# Prof. Francesco Pagnini, Prof. Filippo Aschieri

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

The course aims to provide basic knowledge on psychodynamics and on its models of mental functioning. The course will explore the psychological forces underling human behavior, feelings, and emotions, and how the interrelation of the unconscious and conscious mental aspects determines personality and motivation.

At the end of the course, the student will be informed about the main psychodynamic models to interpret human behaviors, beliefs, and emotions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will present the multifaceted aspects of psychodynamics, with a particular attention toward psychological concepts such as motivation, conflict, mind, but also some psychodynamic constructs, such as signs and symptoms, defense mechanisms, and normality vs pathology. The course will be organized around two main modules:

Module 1.

Unit 1.1 History of psychodynamics and the discovery of the unconscious

Unit 1.2 Jung and the analytical psychology

Unit 1.3 Clinical applications of psychodynamic theories

Module 2.

Unit 2.1 The classic psychoanalytic model

Unit 2.2 Freud’s associates (e.g., Abraham, Ferenczi, and Rank); Reich, Groddeck and the post-freudian psychoanalysis

Unit 2.3 Case studies from the classic psychoanalytic literature

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Ellenberger, H. F. (1970). *The discovery of the unconscious: The history and evolution of dynamic psychiatry*. New York: Basic Books (only selected chapters)

Luyten, P., Mayes, L. C., Fonagy, P., Blatt, S. J., & Target, M. (Eds.). (2017). *Handbook of psychodynamic approaches to psychopathology*. Guilford Publications. (only selected chapters)

A detailed article reading list will be provided to the students at the beginning of the course

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes lectures presenting the main models of the psychodynamic traditions, together with highly interactive sessions where students will be engaged in discussion, analyses, and role-playing. Audio-visual materials and clinical vignettes will be used to stimulate the discussion.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam is composed by a written assessment and an oral evaluation. The written part will be composed by 30 multiple choice questions (each correct answer scores 1). Students will be admitted to the oral section only with a score of 18 or more on the written part. The oral part of the exam will explore the understanding of the course contents, and its score will range from -5 (complete lack of understanding) to +5 (clear understanding of the course contents), which will be added to the score of the written exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.

*Students’ reception*

Prof. Francesco Pagnini receives students by appointment via e-mail: [*francesco.pagnini@unicatt.it*](mailto:francesco.pagnini@unicatt.it).

Prof. Filippo Aschieri receives students by appointment via e-mail: [*filippo.aschieri@unicatt.it*](mailto:filippo.aschieri@unicatt.it).

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)