# Social Psychology

## Prof. Silvia Donato; Prof. Giovanni Aresi

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

Course objectives

This course aims to provide students with theoretical knowledge on the fundamentals of Social Psychology and stimulate critical thinking on psycho-social approaches, theories, and issues.

These objectives will be achieved by:

– Describing the relations between the European and American perspectives on the discipline;

– Examining the connections between the cognitive, affective, and behavioural domains;

– Reflecting on the application of Social Psychology theories and concepts to real-world issues.

**Learning outcomes**

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

* Describe key concepts and Social Psychology theories using the correct terminology;
* Describe major Social Psychology research and classical studies;
* Understand the influence of the social context on thoughts, feelings, and behaviours;
* Discuss with others how Social Psychology concepts are relevant to one's own experiences and real-world issues;

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

* Reflect ̶ with the support of a supervisor ̶ on the relevance of Social Psychology on everyday life and societal issues.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is organised into three modules. In Module 1, the historical and conceptual development of the discipline, along with its definition and most used research methods, will be described. In Module 2, two major Social Psychology areas will be covered: a) social perception (i.e., how people think about themselves and others); and b) social influence (i.e., how people's thinking and behaviour can be influenced by social forces). In Module 3, a further key area of the discipline ̶ social relations ̶ will be described focusing on: a) psychological processes resulting from group membership; and b) how group membership determines attitudes and behaviours of individuals, as well as inter-group relations.

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

D.G. Myers-J. Abell-F. Sani, *Social Psychology*, 2nd edition, McGraw Hill, 2019.

One of the following textbooks:

R. Brown, *Prejudice: Its Social Psychology, 2nd Edition*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010 (chapters 1-5).

P.G. Bain, J. Vaes, J.P. Leyens, *Humanness and dehumanization*. Taylor and Francis, 2013 (chapters 3-7 and one part 2 chapter of choice).

M. Verkuyten, *The social psychology of ethnic identity*. Psychology Press, 2004 (chapters 1-2-3-7)

In addition to the above textbooks, slides presented during class and any content uploaded on the Blackboard platform are required reading material.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be in lecture format. Class discussion and participation will be expected and stimulated through brief individual or group activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final examination will consist of a written exam in a quiz format followed by an oral exam on the same day/session.

The written exam will evaluate students’ acquisition and understanding of basic concepts, theories, and methods of the discipline, as covered by the course classes and textbooks. The oral exam will evaluate whether and how students are able to apply the concepts and theories to real-world scenarios, make meaningful connections and critically discuss them.

The written exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice and/or short answer questions. The written exam grade will be calculated by adding correct answers: one point per correct answer. Passing the written exam (grade ≥ 18) is a prerequisite to be admitted to the oral exam.

The oral exam will be graded independently from the grade of the written exam, and the final exam grade will result from the mean of the two.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given its introductory nature, the course does not require any prerequisite in terms of previous knowledge. In any case, interest and active participation during classes will be expected.

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.

*Meetings with professors*

Students are required to get in contact with the professors in advance to schedule an appointment. Both in person and online meetings are possible.

Professor Silvia Donato receives students at the Family Studies and Research University Centre, second floor, Franciscanum building, (Largo Gemelli 1).

Professor Giovanni Aresi receives students at the Social Psychology Lab, third floor, Nirone building (via Nirone 15).

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