## **Social Psychology**

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

The aim of the course is to teach students a theoretical and critical awareness of the basics of social psychology and for them to develop a critical interpretation of the contents of psycho-social approaches and theories. These aims will be achieved by:

– Combining the European and American matrices of the discipline

– Constant consideration of the links between the intellectual, emotional and behavioural aspects

– Examining the applicative effects of the constructs and theories that have been considered.

Intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

* Know the terminology and lexicon of the discipline as well as the main theories;
* Reformulate what they've learnt and undertake a debate based on the theories learned.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to, with the assistance of a supervisor, re-read social situations and dynamics in light of the course contents learned.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course programme will be structured around three macro-areas.

The first will present the historical-conceptual development of the discipline, its definition and the specifics of "doing research" in social psychology.

In the second, two major thematic areas of the discipline will be addressed: a) social perception, i.e. the study of how people get to know themselves and others, the groups and contexts in which they live; and b) social influence, i.e. all those processes of personal change brought about by the real or symbolic presence of others.

The third will address social relations: a) all those relationships and processes that emerge from a group membership; and b) how these memberships determine the attitudes and behaviours of individuals and inter-group processes i.e. those concerning relations between groups.

The lecturers will alternate throughout the semester-long course, which will be divide the aforementioned three macro-areas into the following work units:

Unit 1: The origins of social psychology within the European and American matrix

Unit 2: Research methods for social psychology

Unit 3: The concept of self and its formation

Unit 4: The processes of social perception

Unit 5: Attitudes and behaviours

Unit 6: Social influence

Unit 7: Persuasion

Unit 8: Interactions in groups

Unit 9: Prejudice

Unit 10: Significant interpersonal relationships

Unit 11: Prosocial behaviours

Unit 12: Conflict and resolution styles

Unit 13: The environmental sustainability

***READING LIST***

D.G. Myers-J. M. Twenge-E. Marta-M. Pozzi, *Psicologia sociale,* McGraw Hill, Milan, 2023.

One book to be chosen from the following list:

S. Alfieri, *La natura (familiare) del pregiudizio,* Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2013 (pdf format only online).

L. Arcuri-M. Cadinu (2011). *Gli stereotipi: Dinamiche psicologiche e contesto delle relazioni sociali.* Bologna: Il Mulino.

N. Cavazza, *Psicologia degli atteggiamenti e delle opinioni*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2005*.*

T. Mancini, *Psicologia dell’identità etnica. Sé e appartenenze culturali,* Carocci, Roma, 2010 (1st and 2nd part).

A. Palmonari-F. Emiliani (ed. by), *Paradigmi delle rappresentazioni sociali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009 (chapp. 1-2-3-6).

A. Palmonari-N. Cavazza, *Ricerche e protagonisti della psicologia sociale,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2012 (chapp. 2-3-5-6-7).

A. Mucchi Faina. *La psicologia collettiva. Storia e problemi,* Carocci, Roma, 2002.

As well as the basic manual and a book to be chosen, exam material will also include lecture notes and slides that will be availableon Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be held as lectures in the lecture room. During some lectures students will have the opportunity to take part in short practical exercises, individually or in small groups.

To foster an in-depth study of the contents of the discipline, the students will also be given the opportunity to take part in single topic exercises to be held outside the course timetable. This work will be organised in small groups with the active participation of those who enrol. For students taking part in the exercises the chosen book will be substituted by a series of articles and contributions that will be indicated at the beginning of the practical exercises and by a final paper written by the work group.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will consist of a written and an oral test focusing on the texts indicated in the appropriate section of the Faculty Guide published on the website [www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it/).

The written test and the oral test will be held in the same session:

- the written test consists of: section A - thirty multiple-choice questions; section B - an open-ended question. A student will pass the assessment if they receive a sufficient mark in both sections. The average of the marks for the two sections constitutes the mark with which the student takes the oral exam;

- the oral test, which may only be taken after passing the written test. The oral test can result in an increase or decrease of 0 to (+/-) 3 marks in the assessment of the written test. If the student displays obvious gaps during the oral test, they may be asked to retake the test in another exam session.

During the written test students should show that they know the key constructs of the subject covered during lectures and illustrated in the textbook; in the oral test students should show that they can navigate the theories presented during lectures, described in the textbook and explored in-depth in the chosen reading, be able to connect them and critically reread them. For students choosing to take part in the exercises at the beginning of the course, the oral test will be on the textbook and exercise material.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should be interested and intellectually curious, particularly during lectures.

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.