# Social Psychology (Module 1)

## Prof. Cristina Giuliani

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

The course aims to guide students through the study of social psychology, and help them to develop critical skills towards the key concepts and the different approaches of this subject. This module is focused on social knowledge, that is to say, the different ways in which individuals try to understand themselves and others, and the meaning of their behaviour.

***Knowledge and understanding***

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

* explain the key theoretical models of social psychology;
* identify the main socio-cognitive processes;
* analyse the interactions between an individual and his context, finding differences between interpersonal, intergroup, and social dimensions, as well as their interdependencies.

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

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

* apply what they have learnt to different contexts;
* carry out a critical analysis of social phenomena, putting into practice the theories and the conceptual frameworks learnt from social psychology;
* reflect upon their ideas, stereotypes and prejudices.

***COURSE CONTENT***

An introduction to social psychology and scientific research methods.

Social cognition.

Social categories, cognitive schemas, and stereotypes.

Verbal communication and social stereotypes.

Prejudice and discrimination.

Identity construction between personal and social self.

First impression formation.

Attitudes and their changes.

***READING LIST***

The teaching material will be made available on Blackboard starting from the first lecture. During the course, the reading list will be integrated with further information on the chapters and the monographs for the exam (also in relation to the different curricula and class attendance).

Hogg, M.A. & Vaughan G.M., (2016). *Psicologia sociale. Teorie e applicazioni*, 2nd edition, Milan: Pearson.

In addition, students are invited to choose a monograph from the list on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures; practical exercises individually or in group; audio-visual material; case studies; lectures held by subject matter experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral assessment (duration: 20 minutes). Students will be tested on: a) their knowledge of the subject, b) their understanding of the key concepts of this course, c) correctness of their argumentation (these three assessment methods are worth the 70% of the final evaluation mark); d) their ability to apply what they have learnt to different social life contexts and phenomena (30% worth the final assessment).

For students attending classes, the final assessment regarding abilities pointed as “d” will take into account the results obtained during the practical exercises carried out in class, and in a written assignment proposed by the lecturer during the course (maximum length: two pages; it will consist of the summary and discussion of a research article published in a scientific magazine).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. Active participation in class will be highly appreciated.

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.