# Social Psychology

## Prof. Silvia Donato; Prof. Adriano Mauro Ellena

***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***

Along with the organization of the main textbook of the course (see below), the course is organised into four main areas of study within the field of Social Psychology: Social thinking, Social influence, Social Relations, and Groups and Identities. The Social thinking will cover topics related to the structure and functions of the self, social beliefs and social judgements, as well as the relationship between attitudes and behaviors. The Social Influence area will cover themes as study of persuasion as well as conformity and obedience. In the area of Social Relations topics such as aggression, attraction and intimacy as well as helping behaviors will be presented. Finally in the area of Groups and Identities students will find topics such as small group processes, social categorization and social identity, as well as prejudice, intergroup relations and conflict.

***READING LIST***

Main textbook:

Social Psychology, McGraw Hill 2023 –Create version.

One of the following textbooks:

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

P.G. Bain, J. Vaes, J.P. Leyens, *Humanness and dehumanization*. Taylor and Francis, 2013 (chapters 3 to 7 and a part 2 chapter at your choice).

M. Verkuyten, *The social psychology of ethnic identity*. Psychology Press, 2004 (chapters 1-2-3 and 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. The course also includes 10 hours of practical activities designed to complement the traditional lecture format. These activities may include group work, case studies, and simulations, and are intended to deepen students' understanding of the course material and foster active engagement with the subject matter.

***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 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.

The outcome(s) of the practical activities will be evaluated and factored into the final grade. The assessment criteria and methods will be explained in detail during class.

***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.

*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 Adriano Mauro Ellena receives students at the Social Psychology Lab, third floor, Nirone building (via Nirone 15).