# Social Psychology of the Family

## Prof. Camillo Regalia

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

The overall aim of the course is to encourage observation skills and critical consideration of social-psychological processes characterising the family organization in its internal dynamics on an intra- and intergenerational level and in the relation with the social and cultural system in which it is placed.

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

– know and understand the defining aspects of the family from a psycho-social perspective, in the light of cultural changes and in relation to different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives;

– know the critical events and evolutionary challenges of the family during its life cycle;

– know and develop critical abilities for understanding the psycho-social processes of the family that enable educational and training interventions that take the family dimension into account;

– know and distinguish a normally functioning family from a problematic one.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be held in two parts.

In the first part the course will concentrate on the analysis of some classic themes of social psychology, describing them from a family perspective. The family is a laboratory that allows to analyse from a complex perspective a series of psychological processes that have a strong individual and social value, such as the construction of one's personal and social identity, influence, persuasion, conformity, leadership, conflict and its management, cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to changes affecting family roles in contemporary society, with particular reference to the father figure and the mother figure.

The second part will analyse the internal dynamics and the main problems that the family faces during its life cycle. In particular, it will investigate the main predictable critical transitions that the family faces during its life cycle - from the formation of the couple, to the birth of children, their growth, up to the transition of the last span of life. The course will also examine some unforeseeable critical events that have a strong impact on the family, such as immigration and disability. The forms of relationship between family and educational institution will be paricularly investigated in a specific way.

***READING LIST***

E. Scabini-R. Iafrate, *Psicologia dei legami familiari*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2019.

An additional text to be chosen from a list that will be provided by the lecturer in class and subsequently included in the teaching staff webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be held as lectures in the lecture room and as work in groups that will require the active involvement of the students. Professional figures will be invited to present research work or specific theoretical considerations on particular issues. The available material will be accessible through the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral and consists of a series of questions on the topics covered in class and on the textbooks indicated. Students will also be requested to complete a paper before the exam, the content of which will be specified in class and included in the faculty webpage.

Assessment will pay particular attention to students' understanding of the topics covered, their presentation clarity, their ability to establish connections between the various subjects and topics covered, their acquisition of the discipline's language concepts, and their ability to apply these knowledgeably to the different contexts of social and educational life.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.