# Legal Psychology and Developmental Processes

## Prof. Davide Massaro

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

The course will introduce students to legal psychology, with special attention paid to the processes of psychological development. The most relevant aspects will be presented that are inherent in the people, the contexts and the problem areas which the professional working in the legal sector of minors will face.

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

* know and critically understand the main arguments deriving from the consolidated comparison of juvenile psychology and juvenile law.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on those legal areas within which psychology is important in achieving the aim of safeguarding the minor. The following topics will be specifically considered:

– Theoretical features.

– Psychology and the law.

– Legal psychology and family contexts.

– Cultural psychology and the law.

***READING LIST***

P. Patrizi (edited by), *Manuale di psicologia giuridica minorile,* Carocci, Roma, 2012.

J. Bruner, *La fabbrica delle storie. Diritto,* *letteratura, vita*. Laterza, Bari, 2002.

***TEACHING METHOD***

During the course lectures will alternate with practical lessons and group discussion on the applicative materials presented by the lecturer.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The oral exam will be preceded by a written exam that consists in open-ended questions and multiple choice questions. Assessment will aim to ascertain students' knowledge and understanding of the topics covered. In particular, students will be assessed on their command of the most significant theoretical orientations in the field of legal psychology, the quality of their arguments, and their use of specific terminology.

***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.