# Group Psychology

## Prof. Camillo Regalia

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

This course aims to sensitise students to the importance of the group and social relationships in the construction of the self, the formation of attitudes, cognitive representations, emotions, behaviour.

Specifically, the course aims are:

1. Provide theoretical tools for the analysis of the main topics of psychology of groups, namely, the group structure, group workings, the underlying dynamics of prejudice, the concept of leadership, and the coordinating function
2. Carry out an in-depth study of the basic topics of the subject via different examples, so as to promote connections to educational complexities.

At the end of the course, students will:

– recognise the fundamental epistemological foundations of Group Psychology and their contribution to the development of satisfactory cultural and professional skills in the field of education;

– develop applicative knowledge of the fundamental topics and main paradigms of Group Psychology;

– possess articulate knowledge of the main schools of thought regarding Group Psychology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The programme will be divided into two main parts:

a) General concepts of group psychology: identity and belonging to the group; motivations underlying the processes of identification with the group; the development of groups and their structure (culture, roles, leadership, cohesion, etc.).

b) Analysis of intergroup relations: with particular focus on the issues of social influence, prejudice, conflict and reconciliation.

***READING LIST***

1. R. Brown, *Psicologia sociale dei gruppi,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2000. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8).

2. Slides and materials available on Blackboard and exercises carried out in the classroom.

G. Quaglino - C. Cortese, *Gioco di squadra,* R. Cortina, Milan 2003.

***TEACHING METHOD***

To encourage learning from experience, the active participation of students is required: the course will include frontal lectures, case analyses, and classroom exercises using the group tool and audiovisuals.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral examination. Students will be assessed on: clarity of presentation, understanding of the general outline of the subject, critical thinking, ability to connect general questions to topics contained in the reading list.

Assessment criteria: accuracy of answers, use of appropriate terminology, ability to use argumentation in a coherent way, and capacity to identify conceptual connections and open issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This is an introductory course so there are prerequisites for attendance.

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.