# Family Social Psychology

## Prof. Rosa Rosnati; Prof. Elena Canzi

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

The course offers students theoretical knowledge and a critical interpretation of the foundations of social psychology and the main theories in the field, with particular reference to group processes. The course will then focus on a particular, historic group: the family. Specifically, the course will illustrate the founding elements of the social psychology of the family from a relational perspective, the fundamental aspects of the identity of the family and its key transitions.

***Expected learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students must know the main findings and theories of social psychology and social psychology of the family, demonstrate that they have acquired greater awareness of the complexity of social and family-based situations of the current cultural context;

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise the practical implications of the theoretical knowledge acquired and be able to use them for designing and implementing interventions to promote family ties.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The first part of the course will cover the main thematic areas of social psychology, such as perception of the self and of others, intragroup and intergroup processes, social influence, conformism, leadership, stereotypes and prejudices, discrimination, conflict, aggression and pro-social behaviour.

In the second part, after presenting the definition and development of the theoretical matrices of the social psychology of the family, the course will tackle two fundamental issues: the identity of the family and its transitions (cultural change and the family life cycle). In light of the symbolic relational approach, the course will cover the relational dynamics in the main transitions families make: couple forming and establishing the conjugal bond, birth of a child and establishing parental bonds, transition to adult life and transition to old age. In addition, some peculiar transitions will be examined: separation and divorce, migration, foster care and adoption and an overview of some topics such as medical assisted fertilisation, LGBT parenting, and recomposed families. Finally, the course will focus on the possible operational implications of these issues and some preventive programmes aimed at starting to support processes with and for families.

***READING LIST***

*For the programme based on lecture content and texts:*

Study material for the exam includes lecture slides which will be available online on Blackboard. Students will also study the following texts:

D.G. Myers-J. Twenge-E. Marta-M. Pozzi., *Psicologia sociale,* Mc Graw Hill, Milan, new edition 2022 (except chs. 1, 2, par 4.2.3, chap 5 , 7, 10 e 13).

E. Scabini-R. Iafrate, *Psicologia dei legami familiari,* Il Mulino, Bologna, new edition, 2019. (except paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 and ch. 9).

A book of students’ choice in one of the following fields:

1. Field of social psychology:

P. Bocchiaro, *Psicologia del male*. Edizioni Laterza, Bari, 2009.

C. Volpato, Deumanizzazione: Come si legittima la violenza, Editori Laterza, Bari, 2014.

1. Field of social psychology of family:

I. Comelli-S. Ranieri, *La coppia on the road. Il legame di coppia di fronte alle sfide del ciclo di vita*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2015.

F.V. Danioni-C. Regalia *“Io ti ringrazio”: Coltivare la gratitudine per il benessere di tutti,* Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2020.

*For the programme based on lecture content, texts and on the cycle of practical exercises:*

Study material for the exam includes lecture slides which will be available online on Blackboard. Students will also study the following texts:

D.G. Myers-J. Twenge-E. Marta-M. Pozzi., *Psicologia sociale,* Mc Graw Hill, Milan, third edition, 2022 (except chs. 1, 2, par 4.2.3, chap 5 , 7, 10 e 13).

E. Scabini-R. Iafrate, *Psicologia dei legami familiari,* Il Mulino, Bologna, new edition 2019 (except par 1.2 and 1.3 and chap. 9).

In addition, students will be required to take part in a cycle of exercises in small groups in the field of social psychology and family social psychology. Students will prepare for the exam by studying emerging content and material that will be produced.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures on the various theoretical aspects of the discipline, as well as some empirical studies. Students will also be assigned tasks to be completed individually or in small groups. They will watch a number of videos and also learn about experience in the field, including through testimonials from visiting experts working in the sector.

To encourage learning and in-depth understanding of the discipline, students will also have the chance to actively participate in a series of practical exercises.

Students will find all study material created during the course and further material to prepare for the exam on a Blackboard page that will be activated during the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam includes:

* a test consisting of two open-ended questions and of the definition of three terms
* an oral test on the entire course programme ad a textbook of students’ choice ( or alternatively on the practical exercise sessions attended).

The written test will assess students’ familiarity with the subject, their ability to contextualise a specific topic by referring to research conducted, if any, and their command of terminology and clarity of presentation. The oral test will assess students’ personal reflection skills with reference to the topics presented, and their ability to make connections and highlight any operational implications and to identify some guidelines for interventions. Students who choose to participate in the class activities proposed during the course will be given the opportunity to present their work during the oral test. Students who choose to participate in the practical exercises proposed during the course will also be asked to present their work during the oral test.

The two open-ended questions and the three definitions will be assessed in thirtieths; this score will be used to calculate the average that constitutes the starting mark for accessing the oral exam.

The outcome of the oral test may increase or decrease the mark obtained in the written exam up to a maximum of three points. The written and the oral tests must be taken in the same exam call. Admission to the oral exam requires a pass mark in the written test.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no specific prerequisites for this 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.