# -. Developmental and Social Relations Psychology

## Prof. Federico Manzi - Prof. Sonia Ranieri

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

The course aims to provide students with a theoretical framework of developmental and social relations psychology, and to stimulate observation skills regarding the developmental and psychosocial processes involving people at an individual, interpersonal, and group level, including their applications in educational and training interventions. Furthermore, the course aims to raise awareness of the value of observation and the group as useful tools for educational action in different contexts of social life.

At the end of the course students will be able to know and understand the basic elements, the main theories, research and intervention methodologies of developmental and social relations psychology, as well as to use the contents learned in an applicative perspective in the field of education and training.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is organised in two modules.

**Module 1:** Prof. Federico Manzi

This module will present the main models of child psychological development in its various dimensions (e.g., motor, affective, cognitive, moral, social). Students will be introduced to the theoretical and methodological issues of developmental psychology through an analysis of the main psychological theories. In particular, the course will consider the role of relational, contextual, and cultural aspects in the development of psychological skills during the first three years of life. Furthermore, the course will explore the attachment theory and its relation with the development of mentalisation as a relevant skill for educational practice in the first years of a child's life.

**Module 2**: Prof. Sonia Ranieri

This course module will focus on a foundational reflection on the themes of social relationships, group and community belonging as constitutive aspects of the individual's identity and on an in-depth study of interpersonal and social relationships within microsocial contexts (family, small groups) and macrosocial contexts (social groups and community). In particular, the module will address topics relating to self and identity development, group dynamics, intergroup relations, social influence, conflict, communication, cooperation, and prosocial behaviour. As part of the study of significant interpersonal relationships, the module will explore issues relating to the peculiarities of psychosocial processes in some normative and non-normative family transitions. Furthermore, some possible practical implications of these issues will be highlighted for interventions to promote psychosocial well-being and care for relationships within specific contexts of social life, in particular the family, school, and community contexts.

***READING LIST*** [[1]](#footnote-1)

*For module 1*

S. Caravita - L. Milani - D. Traficante, *Psicologia dello sviluppo e dell’educazione,* il Mulino, Bologna, 2018 (chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7). [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/psicologia-dello-sviluppo-e-delleducazione-9788815278685-550727.html)

I. Castelli - A. Marchetti - D. Massaro, *La competenza sociale nei bambini. Valutare e promuovere la Teoria della Mente in età prescolare e scolare*, Editore Junior, Parma, 2022 (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11).  [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/la-competenza-sociale-nei-bambini-valutare-e-promuovere-la-teoria-della-mente-in-eta-prescolare-e-scolare-9788884349361-713142.html)

*For module 2*

D. G. Myers - J. M. Twenge - E. Marta - M. Pozzi, *Psicologia sociale,* McGraw-Hill, Milan, 2019 (chapters 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13).  [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/david-g-myers-jean-m-twenge-elena-marta/psicologia-sociale-9788838695346-556208.html)

A textbook to choose from:

L. Alici, *Dentro il conflitto, oltre il nemico*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2018.  [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/dentro-il-conflitto-oltre-il-nemico-il-metodo-rondine-9788815280466-558263.html)

A. Bertoni, *Passi di gruppo*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo (Milan), 2021. [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/anna-bertoni/passi-di-gruppo-9788892222328-692161.html)

F. V. Danioni - C. Regalia, *“Io ti ringrazio”*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo (Milan), 2020. [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/camillo-regalia-francesca-danioni/io-ti-ringrazio-9788892223592-691324.html)

C. Marzotto - P. Farinacci - M. Bonadonna (edited by *La mediazione familiare*, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2021.  [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/gruppi-di-parola-per-la-cura-dei-legami-familiari-9788891709134-223518.html)

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of classroom lectures in which the various theoretical topics and different research will be presented to allow students to get an insight of the contents covered. Furthermore, the course includes example videos, individual or small group guided exercises, and professional experiences concerning specific themes, with the purpose of encouraging active learning of the topics covered and discussion about their possible applications in the educational and training field.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam aimed at assessing the students’ knowledge and understanding of the course contents, the accuracy of their answers, the clarity of presentation, the acquisition of the specific language of the discipline, the ability to connect the different topics addressed, applied to different contexts. The oral exam includes a first part aimed at assessing the knowledge and skills of the content of the first module and a second part aimed at assessing the knowledge and skills of the second module content. Students may also take the first part of the exam through an intermediate exam (in the form of an oral exam), during the January-February 2024 session. The methods, type, and timing of the intermediate exam will be published on the teacher's web page and on the Blackboard platform. Students who will not take the intermediate exam for the first module can take the exam in the regular exam sessions starting from the summer 2024. The final mark is the result of the average of the assessments of the two parts of the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since the course is introductory there are non content-related prerequisites for attending it.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

1. The textbooks indicated in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)