

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology of Social Processes

2021-1-F5106P001

Learning area

FUNDAMENTALS AND RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGY

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Theories of intergroup relations
- The analysis of conflict processes
- The processes of dehumanization
- The analysis of psychosocial processes that help to build, maintain, strengthen, or reduce social inequalities

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Understanding the social processes
- Understanding the intergroup relations
- Understanding the social conflict
- Understanding the strategies of conflict reduction and of dehumanization reduction
- Ability to understand the intergroup dynamics
- Application of acquired knowledge in a perspective of prevention and intervention

Contents

Aim of the class is to develop an in-depth, critical knowledge of theories and empirical studies concerning intergroup processes, with particular focus on inequality, conflict and dehumanization processes

Detailed program

- The psychological roots of inequality
- The perception of inequality
- The research concerning social class
- Social Identity Theory
- Theories of system justification
- Moral and relational roots of equality
- Legitimization and delegitimization processes
- Dehumanization and objectification processes

Prerequisites

No one in particular. A good knowledge of the foundations of psychology enables a more informed understanding of the course contents.

Teaching methods

Teaching methods include the use of lectures, films, classroom discussions and practical exercises. All course material (e.g., slides, readings) are made available on the e-learning website of the course, so that also non-attending students can use it.

Assessment methods

The exam includes a written test. Open questions will be asked in 90 minutes of time. The questions are aimed at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to connect the different forms, spheres and processes of social influence. The answers to each question will be evaluated in terms of correctness of the answers, argumentative capacity, synthesis, ability to form links among the different areas, and the ability to critically present the phenomena.

For students who request it, an oral interview will be also made available, on all the topics of the course, which can lead to an increase or decrease of up to 3 points compared to the written exam score.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- 1) Volpato C. (2011). *Deumanizzazione. Come si legittima la violenza*. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
 - 2) Volpato C. (2018). *Le radici psicologiche della disuguaglianza*. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
 - 3) Special issue on the journal *Minority Reports* (2020) on dehumanization processes
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