UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Psychology of Social Processes

**2122-1-F5106P001**

## Learning area

FUNDAMENTALS AND RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGY

## Learning objectives

In line with the Learning Area 1, the course aims to analyse cognitive, social and cultural variables related to intergroup relations and conflict.

*Knowledge and understanding*

- Theory and model on intergroup relations.
- The intergroup conflict: stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination.
- The interplay between cognitive, affective and cultural variables in intergroup relations.
- Intervention strategies

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

- Understanding the intergroup relations.
- Critical analysis of the fundamental theoretical models

- Understanding and application of intervention strategies to social conflict
- Application of models and methods to socially relevant issues

## Contents

The course aims to provide an overview of socio-psychological processes involved in intergroup relation and social conflict (e.g., stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination. The class will analyse both the classic theories and the current state of research. During the course, different theoretical perspectives and different levels of analysis (from the individual to the cultural one) will be adopted. Particular attention will be devoted to the interplay between cognitive, emotional, motivational processes, identity, social norms and the role of the institution.

## Detailed program

- Theories on intergroup relations and state of the art;
- Cognitive, emotional and motivational processes underlying intergroup relations;
- Stereotyping and prejudice;
- Different types of prejudice (e.g. racism, sexism, heterosexism)
- Cultural influences;
- Consequences of prejudice on minority and majority group members;
- Prejudice reduction;
- The role of organizations and institutions;
- Prejudice effects in social contexts

## Prerequisites

No preliminary requirements are specifically demanded. However a basic knowledge of Social psychology is expected.

## Teaching methods

In addition to classroom lectures, part of teaching takes place through discussion and group works.
The material will be made available on the e-learning site for non-attending students.

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19-related restrictions are imposed.

## Assessment methods

The exam will consist of a written test. It will last 90 min and it will include a series of open questions. Students will have the opportunity to integrate the assessment with an oral test, if required.

Students attending the class will be offered an additional assessment at the end of the course.

The questions will be aimed at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply it. The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers, the ability to argue, summarize, create links, and critically interpret social phenomena.

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Van Lange, P.A.M, Kruglanski, A. W., & Higgins E.T. (2019). *Psicologia Sociale: Teorie sui processi psicologici intraindividuali, interpersonali e intergruppi.* Edra Ed., Milano. Edizione italiana a cura di: Pagliaro, S., Sacchi, S., & Vezzali, L. Cap 1, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20

- Dovidio, J. F., Hewstone, M., Glick, P., & Esses V. M. (2010). *The SAGE Handbook of Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Cap. 1, 2, dal 4 al 14, dal 19 al 29 , 33, 35.

- The course slides available on the elearning platform.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.