



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology of Group Processes

2324-2-F8802N042

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Theoretical and methodological approaches of psychology applied to the study of groups

Cognitive, emotional and motivational processes involved in groups

Theories of relations between social groups and of intergroup conflict processes

Analysis of the psychosocial processes that contribute to building, maintaining, reinforcing or reducing social inequalities

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Ability to operate consciously and critically within social contexts

Ability to understand social processes and intra-group dynamics

Understanding of conflicts between groups and knowledge of conflict reduction strategies

Application of the knowledge acquired in a perspective of prevention and intervention

Contents

The course intends to provide the theoretical and methodological tools useful for understanding group processes in different contexts, family, educational and especially work contexts, which characterize our society. In particular, the class will analyze intragroup and intergroup processes by addressing issues such as: status, power, identity definition, conflict between groups and the psychosocial processes underlying the maintenance of inequality.

Detailed program

The course will cover the following topics:

Part one

- group structure and basic processes: composition, cohesion, norms, status and roles, leadership, communication, groupthink and polarization, conformism, obedience
- cognitive and affective processes in groups and between groups: categorization and social identity
- the conflict between groups: stereotypes and prejudices, reduction of prejudice

Second part

- The psychological roots of inequality
- The perception of inequalities
- Theories of system justification, legitimation and delegitimation processes
- Social classes in a psychosocial perspective: Bourdieu's legacy, social capital and the sociocultural approach, sociocognitive approach.

Prerequisites

No one

Teaching methods

In addition to the lectures, teaching takes place through the guided discussion of videos and practical exercises on the topics of the course. The analysis of contemporary news episodes and the reflection on one's own personal experiences related to the processes of categorisation, stereotyping and discrimination will be encouraged in order to fully understand the phenomena and develop critical analysis skills of social processes. All the material will be made available on the course e-learning site.

Assessment methods

Written exam with optional oral. The optional oral exam can lead to an increase or decrease of 2 points on the score of the written exam.

Attending students will have the possibility of carrying out a paper at the end of the course which will integrate the grade of the written exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
