UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology of Moral Decisions

2425-2-F5106P031

Learning area

Social psychology, economic psychology and decision-making

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

• Acquire knowledge of the main theories on different moral principles and their psychological, biological and cultural origins
• Acquire knowledge of the main behavioural psychology and economics models aimed at systematizing moral decisions

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

• Acquire the ability to critically evaluate the methodology used and the conclusions drawn in research articles
• Acquire the ability to apply theoretical models in natural contexts

Contents

The course aims to introduce the main models aimed at systematizing moral decisions.

Detailed program

Frontal lectures

Prosociality based on material consequences
• Prosociality in economic games
• Bounded rationality
• Social preferences
Prosociality beyond material consequences
• The limitations of social preferences
• Moral preferences
• Personal norms and social norms
Decisions and moral principles
• Deontology and consequentialism
• Theory of moral foundations
• Morality-as-cooperation theory
Language and morality
• The effect of morally charged language on decisions
• Language-based preferences
• Using of sentiment analysis to predict human behaviour

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the fundamentals of social psychology could be useful, but it is not required, because the course will be made as self-sufficient as possible.

Teaching methods

Didactic delivery.

Assessment methods

The assessment will be carried out through a final oral exam, aimed at evaluating the theoretical knowledge of the course themes, the ability to summarize, argue, and identify the connections between the different areas discussed.

Erasmus students can contact the Module Leader to agree on the possibility of taking the exam in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Capraro, V., & Calvani, S. (2020). La scienza dei conflitti sociali. Divisioni politiche, immigrazione, violenza sulle donne, fake news: Cosa insegna la ricerca. Franco Angeli.
Capraro, V., Halpern, J. Y., & Perc, M. (in press). From outcome-based to language-based preferences. Journal of

Economic Literature.
Curry, O. S., Mullins, D. A., & Whitehouse, H. (2019). Is it good to cooperate? Testing the theory of morality-as-cooperation in 60 societies. Current Anthropology, 60(1), 47-69.
Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. A. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. Journal of personality and social psychology, 96, 1029-1046.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES