UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Psicologia Sociale - 1

2627-1-E2403P007-T1

Learning area

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS USEFUL TO UNDERSTAND AND CHANGE THE RELATIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS AND THE PSYCHOSOCIAL PROCESSES UNDERLYING GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
At the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the historical and cultural framework of social psychology and its main theoretical perspectives;
- research methods in social psychology;
- the psychosocial processes underlying individual, group, and social functioning.

Applying knowledge and understanding
At the end of the course, students will be able to apply the knowledge acquired through:

- the ability to engage in dialogue with other disciplines, such as sociology, and with other areas of psychology, such as general, clinical, and dynamic psychology;
- the ability to apply psychosocial models to family contexts, groups, organisations, and communities.

Making judgements
Through classroom discussions of different studies conducted within the field, students will develop the ability to critically analyse the methodological design of research, as well as its results and limitations. The same exercise in critical discussion, applied to the main theoretical models of the discipline, will also enable students to develop an understanding of the variety of perspectives that characterise the field and help them develop an independent

perspective. The assessment method, which consists of a compulsory written examination with open-ended questions and an optional oral examination, will foster independent judgement and reflective thinking about the course content.

Communication skills
The course promotes the development of communication skills through classroom discussions. The assessment method requires students to use appropriate specialist terminology and to present the course content in a concise, clear, and coherent manner.

Learning skills
The course provides a solid theoretical and conceptual foundation that can be further developed through the study of social psychology in subsequent years, as part of the educational pathway that will gradually take shape over the three years of the Bachelor's degree programme.

Contents

The course aims to provide students with the foundations and terminology of the discipline through the presentation of key authors and classic studies, as well as the study of a social psychology textbook. The learning objectives concern the theoretical content and basic skills required to understand and describe the psychosocial processes underlying individual, group, and social functioning.

Detailed program

- The historical and cultural origins of the discipline.
- Classical schools of thought.
- The main current theoretical approaches in social psychology.
- Research methods in social psychology: from experimental research, both in the laboratory and in the field, to action research aimed at promoting change.
- The relationship between social psychology and other disciplines, such as sociology, and with other areas of psychology, such as general, clinical, and dynamic psychology.
- Main areas of research:
    - Groups and intergroup relations.
    - Attitudes.
    - Persuasive communication.
    - Stereotypes and prejudice.
    - Conformity and processes of social influence.
    - Social representations.
    - Processes of social cognition.
    - The application of social psychology to issues such as social conflict and discrimination against minority groups.

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

The lectures aim to encourage students to reflect on the topics covered and their different aspects, also through questions and the viewing of films or other media materials. Each lecture includes both instructor-led and interactive teaching activities.

All course materials (lectures, lecture notes, and, where possible, films) will be made available on the course e-learning platform.

Assessment methods

The assessment of learning takes place through a compulsory written test covering the entire course programme and an optional oral examination.

The written test, which consists of open-ended questions, aims to assess students' knowledge of the main theories and research areas of the discipline, as well as their ability to understand the psychosocial processes through which individual, group, and social functioning can be described. The test comprises four questions to be answered on a computer within 75 minutes. Each answer is graded on a scale of 30, and the final grade corresponds to the average of the four responses. An absent or insufficient response results in a penalty of 2 points on the final average.

The answers are assessed in terms of the accuracy of the content, the ability to summarise, argue, and identify connections between different areas, and the development of skills that enable a critical understanding of the phenomena discussed.

Each answer is assessed according to the following scale:

- 18: barely sufficient knowledge, minimal ability to apply and interpret concepts.
- 19-22: sufficient knowledge of the fundamental concepts, with some uncertainty in their application.
- 23-26: fair knowledge, good ability to apply concepts, with some minor inaccuracies.
- 27-30: solid knowledge, good command of the subject matter, and critical thinking skills.
- 30 cum laude: fully adequate knowledge, full mastery of the subject matter, and excellent command of language.

After the publication of the written test results, students have three days to accept the grade, withdraw, or request an oral examination.

The optional oral examination may only be taken by students who have obtained a grade of at least 18/30 in the written test. The oral examination consists of questions aimed at exploring the course content in greater depth. The answers are assessed according to the same criteria as those used for the written test. The oral examination may increase or decrease the written examination grade, which constitutes the final grade.

Please note that no intermediate examinations are scheduled.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Hogg M. A. & Vaughan G. M. *Psicologia sociale. Teorie e applicazioni*. Milano: Pearson (Chapters 10 and 11 excluded)

Palmonari A. & Cavazza N. *Ricerche e protagonisti della Psicologia Sociale*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Slides (from the e-learning's course page)

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.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES