



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Psicologia Sociale

2627-1-E2006P005

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will have acquired basic knowledge of the main theoretical approaches, concepts, and methods of social psychology. In particular, they will know:

- the specific features of social psychology within the broader field of psychological and social sciences;
- the levels of analysis of the discipline and its main historical developments;
- the main research methods used in social psychology, with reference to theories, hypotheses, variables, research designs, data collection tools, and issues related to replicability and the quality of evidence;
- the main theoretical models and empirical findings concerning social cognition, social influence, attitudes, the Self, aggression, prosociality, belonging and social exclusion, prejudice, and intergroup relations;
- some relevant areas of contemporary social psychology, with particular attention to environmental psychology, political psychology, online interactions, and interaction with artificial agents.

Applying knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- recognize and use the basic terminology of social psychology;
- distinguish social psychology from other psychological and social science disciplines;
- apply concepts and models from social psychology to the analysis of everyday situations, social cases, and collective phenomena;
- recognize the main processes of social cognition, including heuristics, biases, inferences, and mechanisms of social categorization;
- analyze different forms of social influence, such as normative and informational influence, conformity, minority influence, and obedience to authority;
- interpret phenomena related to interpersonal and intergroup relations, including conflict, cooperation, prejudice, social exclusion, and prosociality;

- apply the acquired knowledge to the analysis of contemporary social phenomena, such as environmental sustainability, political behavior, online relationships, and interaction with artificial intelligence systems.

Making judgements

The course aims to promote students' ability to critically evaluate theories, research findings, and social phenomena in light of the concepts of social psychology. This ability will be developed through classroom discussions, case analyses, examples drawn from everyday life, discussion of audiovisual materials, and guided reflections on the limits and implications of the research presented.

By the end of the course, students should be able to formulate reasoned evaluations of psychosocial phenomena, distinguishing between common-sense explanations and interpretations grounded in theoretical and empirical evidence. They should also be able to critically examine the relationship between classic psychosocial processes and contemporary transformations, including those related to the environment, politics, digital technologies, and artificial agents.

Communication skills

The course aims to foster students' ability to communicate the main concepts of social psychology clearly and appropriately. Through classroom discussions, guided exchanges, and interactive activities, students will be encouraged to use the specific vocabulary of the discipline, summarize theoretical content, and present connections between models, empirical findings, and social phenomena.

The open-ended question included in the exam also contributes to assessing students' ability to argue, summarize, and critically connect the course contents, including in relation to the multimedia materials indicated in the syllabus.

Learning skills

The course provides conceptual and methodological tools that are useful for continuing the study of social psychology independently beyond the course. To this end, students will be guided in the use of the textbook, the teaching materials available on the e-learning platform, and the multimedia materials indicated in the syllabus.

By the end of the course, students should be able to orient themselves independently within the main topics of the discipline, explore specific topics in greater depth, connect new knowledge to the theoretical and methodological models learned, and recognize the usefulness of social psychology for understanding changing social phenomena.

Contents

The course aims to provide an updated theoretical and methodological foundation in social psychology, with attention to the specific features of the discipline within the broader field of psychological and social sciences. Students will examine the main theoretical models, research methods, and empirical findings that help explain how individuals' emotions, thoughts, and behaviors are influenced by social contexts, interpersonal relationships, groups, and transformations in the contemporary world.

The course covers both the classic foundations of social psychology, such as social cognition, social influence, attitudes, the Self, aggression, prosociality, belonging and social exclusion, prejudice, and intergroup relations, and some applied and emerging areas, including environmental psychology, political psychology, online interactions, and interaction with artificial agents.

Detailed program

PART ONE: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. Introduction to social psychology
2. Conducting research in social psychology

PART TWO: THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

3. Social cognition
4. Social influence
5. Attitudes
6. The Self: self-regulation, motivation, and emotions
7. Aggression
8. Prosociality
9. Belonging and social exclusion
10. Prejudice

PART THREE: AREAS AND TRANSFORMATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

11. Environmental psychology
12. Political psychology
13. The social psychology of online interactions
14. The social psychology of interaction with artificial agents

The exam program includes all 14 chapters of the textbook indicated in the “Textbooks and Reading Materials” section and the multimedia materials specified in that section.

Prerequisites

No specific disciplinary prerequisites are required. However, students are expected to read and study the textbook and the indicated materials on a regular basis, and to use the basic terminology of the discipline as it is progressively introduced during the course.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 28 two-hour lectures, for a total of 56 hours and 8 ECTS credits. Teaching activities are held in person. Any changes due to organizational needs or contingent circumstances will be communicated through the course e-learning page.

Teaching is organized as follows:

- 24 two-hour lectures, for a total of 48 hours, delivered in person in a lecture-based format. These lectures are devoted to the presentation of the main concepts, theoretical models, empirical findings, and research methods of social psychology.
- 4 two-hour lectures, for a total of 8 hours, delivered in person in an interactive format. These activities include guided discussions, brief individual or small-group reflections, case analyses, discussion of audiovisual materials, and applications of theoretical concepts to concrete social situations.

During the lectures, the instructor encourages students' active participation through questions, examples, discussions, and activities aimed at critically reworking the course contents. The interactive activities are designed to foster understanding of the concepts, the ability to apply them to the analysis of social phenomena, and the development of independent judgement.

Whenever possible, teaching materials, including lecture slides and additional support materials, will be made available on the course e-learning page. These materials support individual study but do not replace the textbooks and reading materials indicated in the syllabus. The course is taught in Italian.

Assessment methods

Assessment takes place through a written exam only. No mid-term exams are planned.

The written exam covers the entire exam program, consisting of the 14 chapters of the textbook and the multimedia materials indicated in the "Textbooks and Reading Materials" section. The exam consists of:

- 28 multiple-choice questions, with 4 response options. The questions are distributed so as to include 2 questions for each of the 14 chapters of the textbook. Each correct answer is worth 1 point; unanswered questions are worth 0 points; incorrect answers entail a penalty of 0.25 points.
- 1 open-ended question, assessed from 0 to 4 points. The open-ended question concerns the multimedia materials indicated in the "Textbooks and Reading Materials" section and is designed to assess students' critical analysis, synthesis, argumentation, and ability to connect the materials with the theoretical contents of the course.

The maximum score is 32 points: up to 28 points for the multiple-choice questions and up to 4 points for the open-ended question. The final grade is expressed out of 30. Scores of 31 or 32 will be converted into 30 with honours.

The multiple-choice questions are designed to assess the acquisition of basic theoretical knowledge, the understanding of the main models of social psychology, and the ability to recognize concepts, processes, and empirical findings covered in the course. The open-ended question assesses students' ability to understand and analyze the multimedia materials, connecting them appropriately to the theoretical concepts of the course.

Answers to the multiple-choice questions will be assessed according to correctness. For each question, the correct option will be consistent with the contents, definitions, and conceptual distinctions presented in the textbook, which is the main reference for exam preparation. The incorrect options will be formulated to assess students' precise understanding of the concepts and their ability to distinguish between correct definitions and partial, inaccurate, or incorrect formulations.

The answer to the open-ended question will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- 0 points: absent answer, off-topic answer, or answer with no relevant reference to the multimedia material.
- 1 point: very generic or mainly descriptive answer, with minimal, inaccurate, or poorly connected references to the course contents.
- 2 points: sufficient answer, showing essential understanding of the material and at least one relevant connection with the concepts of the course, but with limited argumentation.
- 3 points: good answer, with clear analysis of the material, correct use of theoretical concepts, and relevant connections with the program.
- 4 points: excellent answer, with accurate and well-argued analysis, solid theoretical connections, critical ability, and effective use of examples drawn from the material.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Andrighetto, L., & Riva, P. (a cura di). (2026). *Psicologia sociale. Fondamenti teorici ed empirici* (2^a ed.). Bologna: il Mulino. ISBN 978-88-15-39712-6.

The exam program includes all 14 chapters of the second edition of the textbook.

Listening to the following podcasts is also part of the exam material:

- a - *Io ero il milanese* - RaiPlay Sound
- b - Sabrina Efionayi, *Storia del mio nome*

Watching the following videos is also part of the exam material:

- a - *Comizi d'amore*, 1965 documentary by Pier Paolo Pasolini
- b - *Processo per stupro*, 1979 documentary by Maria Grazia Belmonti, Anna Carini, Rony Daopulo, Paola De Martis, Annabella Miscuglio, and Loredana Rotondo

Lecture slides and any additional materials made available on the course e-learning page are intended to support individual study, but they do not replace the textbooks, reading materials, and exam materials indicated in this section.

Although this course is held in Italian, Erasmus students may contact the instructor to agree on the possibility of studying with an English-language bibliography and/or taking the exam in English.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
