UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Psicologia Sociale - Corso Avanzato

2627-1-F5112P001

Learning area

Fundamentals and research methods in social and economic psychology

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Theories and methods in social cognition
The role of cognitive and motivational processes in shaping person and group perception
Cognitive biases and social interactions

Applying knowledge and understanding
Critical review of theoretical models
Building methodological skills through practical exercises and group works

Making judgements
Strengthening critical thinking skills, taking into account evolving global contexts, through both guided and independent reading of scientific articles and active participation in group discussions

Communication skills
Enhancement of the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with both specialist and non-specialist audiences across diverse contexts.

Learning skills
Development of the ability to pursue one's academic path independently, supported by enhanced critical awareness and a renewed sensitivity to theoretical, conceptual, and methodological framework

Contents

The purpose of the course is to develop an understanding of social perception, cognition and impression formation through examining recent research.

Detailed program

- Theoretical background and key concepts
- Automatic versus controlled processing
- Methods in Social Cognition
- Impression formation
- Face perception
- Social categorization
- Stereotyping
- Prejudice
- Cognition and behavior

Prerequisites

None in particular. However, a good knowledge of the foundations of social psychology enables a more informed understanding of the course contents.

Teaching methods

28 lectures (56 hours, 8 ECTS) in-person in the classroom. The course primarily employs a lecture-based teaching method. Teaching methods also include discussions and practical exercises. All course materials will be available on the e-learning platform. The course is taught in Italian.

Assessment methods

Assessment will consist of a written test and a compulsory oral examination, both held on the same day.
The written test consists of two exercises. Each exercise is worth up to 3 points, for a maximum total of 6 points. To be admitted to the oral examination, students must obtain a score of at least 4 out of 6 on the written test. The written test serves as a qualifying requirement and does not contribute to the final grade.
The oral examination is designed to assess students' acquisition of the theoretical and methodological knowledge covered in the course. Performance will be evaluated on the basis of the accuracy of the answers provided, the ability to present and synthesize arguments coherently, the capacity to establish connections among the different topics addressed during the course, and the ability to critically interpret and discuss the phenomena examined.
The final grade, expressed on a 30-point scale, is based exclusively on the oral examination.
Students who do not pass the written test are not eligible to take the oral examination.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Brambilla, M., & Carnaghi, A. (2026). *Cognizione Sociale: Fondamenti Teorici e Ricerca Empirica*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Sacchi, S., & Brambilla, M. (2014). *Psicologia della moralità*. Roma: Carocci Editore.

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

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES