UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Psychology

2627-2-E3902N015

Learning objectives

The main objective of the course is to provide students with interpretive tools to understand the complex relationships between individuals and their social context. The theoretical framework adopted is that of social psychology. In particular, through lectures and individual study, students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Acquire a solid understanding of human behavior in interactions with others and within groups, with particular attention to workgroups; understand the psychological processes and motivations that influence self-knowledge and social understanding; be familiar with the determinants and consequences of prejudice and social exclusion.
- Be able to apply theoretical knowledge from social psychology to analyze and interpret the dynamics of relevant social contexts, connecting theory and practice.
- Develop the ability to critically evaluate individual behaviors and group dynamics, recognizing biases, exclusion, and mechanisms of social influence.
- Acquire mastery of the specific terminology of the discipline and the main theories covered in the course.
- Develop autonomy in study and critical reflection, fostering continuous updating of knowledge in social psychology and professional and educational experiences.

Contents

The course examines the main processes of social psychology that regulate the relationship between individuals and their social context. After an introduction to the theoretical and methodological foundations of the discipline, the course will address processes of social cognition and attribution, mechanisms of social influence, and the formation and change of attitudes. It will further explore the phenomena of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination, as well as processes of dehumanization, the dynamics of social exclusion, and the factors underlying aggression and prosocial behavior. A specific section will be devoted to group dynamics and decision-making processes, with particular attention to work settings.

Detailed program

- Introduction to Social Psychology: The subject matter of the discipline and research methods in social psychology.
- Social Cognition and Attribution Processes: Processes of social categorization and organization of social knowledge; schemas and expectations; automatic and controlled processes; causal attribution and interpretation of one's own and others' behavior.
- Social Influence: Conformity, obedience, and minority influence.
- Attitudes: Structure and functions of attitudes; processes of formation, maintenance, and change of attitudes.
- Stereotypes and Prejudice: Cognitive and motivational processes underlying stereotypes; prejudice and discrimination in intergroup relations.
- Dehumanization: Processes of denying humanity and their implications in social relationships.
- Social Exclusion: Processes and dynamics of exclusion, marginalization, and stigma; psychological and social consequences of exclusion.
- Aggression and Prosocial Behavior: Processes, theories, and antecedents of aggressive and prosocial behavior.
- Group Dynamics and Decision-Making Processes: Conflicts and decision-making processes in workgroups.

Prerequisites

Sufficient educational skills in logic, social culture and reasonable capacities in learning, writing and communication

Teaching methods

The course will be conducted in Italian through lectures, supported by slide presentations and the viewing of audiovisual materials designed to complement and clarify the theoretical content covered. Active participation of students will also be encouraged through guided discussions, with the aim of fostering informed and critical engagement with the topics addressed.
In particular, the course includes:

- 30 hours in person, delivered in 2- or 4-hour blocks, in a lecture format.
- 12 hours remotely, delivered in 2- or 4-hour blocks, in a lecture format.

The lectures are primarily delivered in a lecture format, with moments of discussion and interaction.

Assessment methods

The exam is written and consists of open-ended questions (similar to very short essays) aimed at assessing the effective acquisition of theoretical and methodological knowledge, as well as the ability to apply it to real-world contexts. The exam will cover the material presented in class, further developed in the assigned textbook.

The evaluation criteria are (a) the completeness of the answer, understood as the relevance and accuracy of the

information provided; (b) the appropriate use of the discipline-specific terminology; (c) communicative and expository effectiveness.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Andrighetto, L., & Riva, P. (2020). *Psicologia sociale: Fondamenti teorici ed empirici*. Il Mulino.

Other materials will be provided by the instructor.

Sustainable Development Goals

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