UNIVERSITÀ DI TRENTO

[156003/2] Group Psychology

Course objectives and learning outcomes

This course aims to equip students with a deep understanding of the intricate relationships between individuals and their social environments, an essential foundation for future educators. Grounded in the theoretical framework of social psychology, the course will enable students – through lectures and independent study – to develop the following competencies:

- a thorough knowledge of (a) social interactions both in one-on-one and group settings, with particular emphasis on working groups; (b) the social-psychological processes and motivations underlying self-concept and social representations; and (c) the origins and impacts of prejudice and social exclusion;
- proficiency in the scientific language and key theoretical perspectives of social psychology;
- the ability to effectively connect theoretical insights with practical applications.

Contents

- Group processes
    - Dynamics of group formation, social roles, and mechanisms of social influence
    - Working groups: analysis of conflicts, leadership styles, factors affecting efficiency, and decision-making processes
- Social perceptions
    - Stereotypes and prejudice: underlying cognitive processes and their role in intergroup relations
    - Psychological impact of stereotypes and prejudice on affected individuals
    - Social exclusion and its psychological effects

Entrance requirement

No prerequisites are required.

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Teaching and learning methods and activities

The course is delivered in person and integrates various teaching methods to promote both theoretical learning and practical engagement. Lectures will provide students with core knowledge through the presentation of key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and empirical research. Students are expected to complement in-class learning with the reading of textbooks and selected course materials. In-person workshop activities will also play a central role, offering opportunities for in-depth exploration of course topics, hands-on experience with group dynamics, and the development of collaborative skills within multi-professional teams.

Test and assessment criteria

The final exam consists of:

- a written test administered at the end of the course;
- active participation in lab activities and submission of a related individual report.

The evaluation criteria for the open-ended questions in the written exam are as follows: (a) completeness of the response, including relevance and accuracy of the information provided; (b) correct and appropriate use of the discipline-specific language; (c) clarity and effectiveness in communication and exposition.

Bibliography

Required readings:

- Andrighetto, L., Riva, P. (Eds.). (2020). *Psicologia sociale: Fondamenti teorici ed empirici* [Social psychology: Theoretical and empirical foundations]. Il Mulino (only the chapters indicated on the course e-learning page).
- Malaguti, D. (Ed.) (2018). *Fare squadra. Psicologia dei gruppi di lavoro* [Working in teams: Psychology of work groups]. Il Mulino.

Detailed information about additional teaching materials will be published on the e-learning page associated with the course.