# Social psychology

PROF. MAURO BERTOLOTTI

## Course aims and intended learning outcomes

The course aim is to introduce students to the basic theoretical and empirical concepts of social psychology. The course will examine individual and group processes underlying social interactions and behaviour, with a specific focus on the links between psychological processes and communication.

*Knowledge and understanding*
Knowledge of the main theoretical models of social psychology;
Understanding of the methods used in social psychological research.

*Applying knowledge and understanding*
Use of psychosocial categories in describing and interpreting social and political processes.

*Making judgements*
Use of insight from psychosocial research in problem-solving tasks (e.g., risk assessment, policy making, negotiation).

*Communication*
Ability to present scientific evidence from psychosocial research to potentially interested audiences (general public, interest groups, decision-makers).

## Course content

1. Fundamental concepts of social psychology.
2. Social cognition: impression formation and attribution.
3. Self and identity.
4. Attitudes and persuasion.
5. Social influence.
6. Prejudice and discrimination.
7. Intergroup conflict and cooperation.
8. Workshop: designing, conducting, and presenting psychosocial research.

## Reading list

M.A. HOGG-G.M. VAUGHAN, Social Psychology. Eighth edition, Pearson, New York, 2018 (Ch. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-10-11).

## Teaching method

Lectures, discussion of empirical research, use of online additional materials on the Blackboard platform.

## Assessment method and criteria

Students will be able to choose between two methods of assessment in the final exam.

For students attending classes and participating in the workshop, the final exam will consist in the evaluation (0-4 points) of the group essay based on the workshop, and an individual written exam on the content of the lectures. The written test will consist in 10 multiple-choice questions on the main concepts and definitions in

social psychology (scored 1 point each for correct answers, 0 points for wrong or missing answers), 2 open-ended questions on psychosocial models and theories (scored 0-4 points each), and 1 open-ended question on the application of psychosocial knowledge to social and political scenarios (scored 0-8 points). In addition,

For students unable to attend classes, the exam will consist in a written test focusing on the content of the textbook (see the reading list above). The written test will consist in 12 multiple-choice questions on the main concepts and definitions (scored 0-1 points), 2 open-ended questions on psychosocial models and theories (scored 0-5 points), and 1 open-ended question on the application of psychosocial knowledge to social and political scenarios (scored 0-8 points).

## Notes and prerequisites

Students can find further information on the course program, reading list and teaching materials on the course's Blackboard page (http://blackboard.unicatt.it), and the teacher's virtual classroom (https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/#/it/docenti/26533/mauro-maria-bertolotti/didattica)

*Office hours*
Students can contact the teacher by email (mauro.bertolotti@unicatt.it) or in the consultation hours (Mondays 10:30-12:30) held at the Department of Psychology (Dominicanum building, third floor, room 310.