



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

## PS/SO320 – Social Psychology Through Theatre

PROF. CLAUDIA MANZI

ANNA ZAPPAROLI, BENEDETTA BORCIANI, LUCREZIA PIAZZOLLA

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides an overview of the fashion industry. The aim of the course is to address the main strategic and managerial characteristics related to fashion with a global focus, analyzing the new challenges that fashion is facing nowadays: the digital and the sustainability revolution.

Course objectives can be synthesized as follows:

- To get acquainted with the concept of fashion brand management;
- to understand the main differences among the market segments;
- to understand seasonal strategies at the level of product, distribution and communication;
- to analyze the new challenges that are reshaping nowadays the fashion industry: the digital challenge (social media communication, e-commerce) and sustainability.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to tackle four classical topics of Social Psychology through innovative teaching methods involving drama practice. **The course will be activated only if a minimum of 10 students is reached.**

### COURSE CONTENTS

The following issues will be addressed: identity; social stigma; forgiveness in close relationships; acculturation processes.

### PREREQUISITES

There are no academic requirements. It is desirable the students' wishing to participate in this course are happy with the idea of sharing personal experiences with the group and are not embarrassed with the idea of acting out small sketches on stage in the presence of their peers. This does not mean, on the other hand, that any specific acting experience or talent is needed. It must be clear that students will not be judged based on their acting skills because the aim of the course is to analyze social-psychological processes.

### METHOD OF TEACHING

Each topic will be developed via two parallel activities: theoretical lectures in class (involving readings discussion) and theatre workshops with La Dual Band, a theatre company specializing in group training with students.

A group assignment is required and it is based on the writing and performance of a small script. All the scripts will be performed in a final showcase where other students of the university could be invited.



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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students have to comply with the following requirements:

Students are expected to attend class sessions regularly and actively contribute to in-class activities.

When absent, students are expected to justify to the teacher via email.

Students are expected to study in advance the assigned course readings.

During the theatre workshops students are expected to wear comfortable clothes (ideally black jumpsuits and sneakers)

Students will have to take two written exams: a mid-term test and a final test, at the end of the teaching period.

**NOTE: The use of the mobile phone is not allowed during the class.**

## CREDITS

6 ECTS

## GRADING

Attendance and class participation	30 % of final grade
Group assignments + performance	30 % of final grade
Midterm written test	20 % of final grade
Final written exam	20 % of final grade

## COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

## SCHEDULE

The course will run one day per week, alternating one week in class from 1.30 to 3.30 and one week in the theatre "Il Cielo sotto Milano" from 1.30 to 6.00 in order to facilitate the lab activity.

## INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Claudia Manzi** is Associate professor of Social Psychology at the Catholic University of Milan.

Her research focuses on the cultural and social factors that determine successful identity processes. She analyzes the identity processes that characterize a well-functioning individual and the social and relational factors that can promote such successful identity processes in differing cultural context.

**Anna Zapparoli** is half Italian and half English. She was born in Milan, where she graduated from the Piccolo Teatro Drama School, when it was directed by illustrious director Giorgio Strehler. As an actress, she has worked with



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many acclaimed Italian artists including Dario Fo, Luca Ronconi, Glauco Mauri and many others. She is playwright, director and artistic director for La Dual Band.

### **Benedetta Borciani**

Benedetta first performed singing Brecht's Children's Prayer in a show with her parents when she was 4 years old. She studied music as a child. She is perfectly bilingual, and regularly performs in both Italian and English. She graduated from the Turin Teatro Stabile Drama School. She worked with artists such as Bruce Myers, Giorgio Albertazzi, Franco Branciaroli, Massimo Popolizio. She regularly leads workshops, in English and Italian, in high schools and universities (Liceo Caravaggio, Liceo Volta, Università Cattolica).

### **Lucrezia Piazzolla**

Lucrezia has studied music since she was a little girl. She has also been a member of La Scala children's choir. She started working in the theatre at the age of 11. She graduated in Languages at Milan State University. She leads children's workshops both in Italian and English and is an assistant teacher for La Dual Band's workshops for adults.

**La Dual Band** is Dual because of its dual composition: theatre and music. Founded in 1997 by Anna Zapparoli (actress/singer, playwright and director) and Mario Borciani (pianist and composer), it is also dual linguistically: Anna Zapparoli and two other members are half English half Italian - the Company has performed in Britain (six times at the Edinburgh Fringe, with very good reviews, in London and in other festivals in England) as well as Switzerland and France (Avignon and Paris).

Over the years La Dual Band has specialised in chamber musical theatre, often strongly inspired by brechtian plays.

The theatre **Il Cielo Sotto Milano** ("The Sky under Milan") was inaugurated in March 2016 in the underground station of Porta Vittoria - some say it's the only theatre in an underground station. Because of its unusual location, its aim is to reach a new and different audience. A few yards from the stage, hundreds of passengers and commuters cross the station every day - each one a different occupation, lifestyle, interests. All of them can see what goes on in the theatre through the large windows. This is not a mysterious temple of culture, as theatres are often regarded - but a welcoming and friendly place.

The programme is closely linked to the artistic calling of the Company: theatre and music, theatre in English, social and political theatre. Our commitment is to create a link between the inside and the outside, by hosting other companies and by making the secrets of theatre-craft accessible to anyone. At the end of each show, a plate of soup and a glass of wine are included in the ticket and are shared with the artists.

Il Cielo sotto Milano hosts many activities: rehearsals, workshops, individual lessons, meetings and conferences. The space is considerable and special curtains can isolate acoustically the area dedicated to individual music lessons.

The audience seats 100.

### **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

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