University of Padova

School of Psychology

CATALOGUE OF COURSES HELD IN ENGLISH

FOR ERASMUS, FOREIGN AND ITALIAN STUDENTS

academic year 2013 > 2014
Welcome to Padova

With the delightful Euganean Hills to the south, criss-crossed by waterways, Padova is a city which blends historical tradition and culture with burgeoning business and service industries. Its location makes it perfect for reaching Venice and its beach resorts, the Dolomites, Lake Garda and the SPA resorts of Abano and Montegrotto Terme. Padova lies at the heart of north-eastern Italy and is the powerhouse behind one of Europe’s largest economic and industrial regions, with more than 7 million inhabitants and 600,000 firms.

Studying in Padova means enjoying a lively city with centuries of history and a glance at the future, taking advantage of a stimulating environment that combines art and science, modernity and tradition.

The University of Padova

Established in 1222 as a response to the specific social and cultural conditions that created a need for it and not as the result of a charter granted by Pope or emperor, University of Padova is the second oldest University in the world and one of the most prestigious in Europe. Its motto of Universa Universis Patavina Libertas was coined to guarantee full respect for university’s freedom of teaching and thinking. In 1678, Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia became the first woman in the world to receive a university degree. Along with such universities as Bologna, Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, Padova was one of the first to exemplify the idea of a Gymnasium Omnium Disciplinarum: an educational model that can now be seen throughout the world.

After about eight centuries of history, nowadays -as the publications of innumerable conferences and congresses show- Padova University plays an important role in scholarly and scientific research at both European and worldwide level. True to its origins, this is the direction in which the Institution intends to move in the future, establishing closer and closer links of co-operation and exchange with all the world's major research universities.

Studying at the School of Psychology in Padova

The two very first Degree Courses in Psychology in Italy were established in 1971, one of them in Padova, the other in Rome. In the University of Padova, professors and researchers carry out their lecturing and scientific activities in a large number of areas of psychology, such as cognitive science, neuropsychology, social psychology, applied psychology, developmental psychology, perception and psychophysics, psychometrics, clinical psychology, etc. In Academic Year 2011/2012 we had about 6000 students enrolled in our psychological courses, with an offer of over 200 courses.

There are several Degree Courses in Psychology both at undergraduate and post-graduate level (Box A, page 4). These are framed within one of three separate Departments (Box B, page 4). The Departments, as well as coordinating the teaching within the Degree Courses are heavily involved in scientific research activity. Each of them is provided with well equipped laboratories and scientific activity is carried out in a variety of different areas of the psychological sciences.
The library of the Departments keeps a large selection of books and reviews that can be used for consultation, in both research and practice. The Computer Science Laboratories and halls are equipped with around 200 workstations and their activity is supported by several servers.

The very high quality of teaching is greatly appreciated as demonstrated by its ranking published by the independent CENSIS Institute (www.censis.it) which, in the last years, has placed the Degrees in Psychology of the University of Padova at the top of all such degree courses in Italy.

**BOX A  The Degree Courses in Psychology at the University of Padova**

**Undergraduate/Bachelor Level (3 years degree courses)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Original title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology and Psychobiology</td>
<td>Scienze Psicologiche Cognitive e Psicobiologiche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>Developmental and Educational Psychology</td>
<td>Scienze Psicologiche dello Sviluppo e dell’Educazione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>Social and Work Psychology</td>
<td>Scienze Psicologiche Sociali e del Lavoro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L4</td>
<td>Psychology of Personality and Interpersonal Relationship</td>
<td>Scienze Psicologiche della Personalità e delle Relazioni Interpersonali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postgraduate/Master Level (2 years degree courses)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Original title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1A</td>
<td>Applied Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia Cognitiva Applicata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1B</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia Clinica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1C</td>
<td>Neurosciences and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Neuroscienze e Riabilitazione Psicologica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2</td>
<td>Developmental and Educational Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia dello Sviluppo e dell’Educazione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3</td>
<td>Social, Work and Communication Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia Sociale, del Lavoro e della Comunicazione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M4A</td>
<td>Clinical Dynamic Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia Clinico-dinamica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M4B</td>
<td>Community Psychology</td>
<td>Psicologia di Comunità</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN2*</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Entirely taught in English language

**BOX B The Departments in charge of Psychology Degree courses in Padova**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>Original title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPG</td>
<td>Department of General Psychology</td>
<td>Dipartimento di Psicologia Generale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPSS</td>
<td>Department of Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>Dipartimento di Psicologia dello Sviluppo e della Socializzazione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISSPA</td>
<td>Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and Applied Psychology</td>
<td>Dipartimento di Filosofia, Sociologia, Pedagogia e Psicologia Applicata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of courses in Psychology taught in English language in the Academic Year 2013-2014

For organizational reasons the courses have been organized in two profiles. **Profile A** (pink shaded): mainly focused on cognitive psychology and neuroscience; **Profile B** (blue shaded): mainly focused on social psychology.

Erasmus students are free to attend any courses from both profiles. We are strongly committed to avoid any overlapping in timetables, though please consider that occasional overlapping may occur between courses from two different profiles (i.e. A vs. B). **Timetables will never overlap for courses framed within the same profile.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>PROFILE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRST SEMESTER COURSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Ideas in Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology of Emotions. Theoretical and Applied Aspects</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Effects of Mass Media</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND SEMESTER COURSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective Neuroscience and Psychopathology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychology of Aging</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory in Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Data Analysis in Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Economics: Decision Making, Altruism, Cooperation and Competition</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self and Identity: from the Individual to the Social Self</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Courses not active in the next Academic Year (2013-2014)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Psychology of Health</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is still liable to some changes, for an updated version email our Office: erasmus.psicologia@unipd.it

All the information concerning each course included in the list above is detailed in this brochure.

Apart from the English-taught courses, also for several of our Italian-taught courses in Psychology the possibility is offered to the Erasmus students (upon request to the professor) to use English study material and/or to be examined in English (for more information please email our Office: erasmus.psicologia@unipd.it).

Courses of Master Degree Course in **Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology (CN2)**
In September 2012 a new Master Degree Course in *Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology* (CN2) was started. All classes of this Degree Course are held in English language. This is a Degree Course with restricted admission and strictly limited to post-graduate students. Admission of selected Erasmus students to some of the courses of the first year (listed below) can be considered (for more information on admission of Erasmus students please email our Office).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST SEMESTER COURSES</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developmental and Aging Brain</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurolinguistics and Aphasiology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New concepts in General Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics for Brain and Cognitive Sciences</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECOND SEMESTER COURSES</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology and Social Neuroscience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective Neuroscience and Psychopathology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Neuropsychology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience of Action</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Electroencephalography ad Evoked Potentials in Research and Clinical Diagnosis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroimaging and Brain Stimulation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This list is still liable to changes.

Information concerning this courses is detailed in the CN2 syllabus. For the CN2 syllabus and for any information about this Master, please email: cdl.cn2@unipd.it
Psychology Academic calendar 2013-2014 for all courses taught in English

1st year Master Degrees

First semester
Classes: October 14th, 2013 - January 17th, 2014
Winter exams session: January 27th, 2014

Second semester (currently not available, last update November 2013)
Classes:

Summer exams session:

Extra exams session:

Spring break:

Contact information:
Erasmus Office Psychology
erasmus.psicologia@unipd.it
tel. + 39 (0) 49 8276163
fax + 39 (0) 49 8276489
via Venezia, 12 - 35131 Padova, Italy
CONTENTS OF
PSYCHOLOGY COURSES TAUGHT IN
ENGLISH
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014
Advanced Data Analysis In Developmental Psychology

Professor: Franca Agnoli
Phone number: +39 (0) 49 827 6530
e-mail: franca.agnoli@unipd.it
Responsible department: Department of Developmental Psychology - DPSS
Degree course code / year: M2/ 1st year
Main field of study:
ECTS Credits: 6
Lecture hours: 42
Semester: II

Contents

Data management; missing data: what to do with them; methods for analyzing longitudinal data; parametric effect size indices; nonparametric effect size indices; the practical importance of findings.

Expected learning outcomes

The goal is to present the shortcomings of statistical tests. The emphasis of the course will be to teach effect size estimation and interval estimation for effect sizes.

Required Knowledge

Students need to have taken an introductory to Statistics class. They should have a good command of 1) descriptive statistics; 2) basic rules of probability and probability distributions; and 3) knowledge of inferential statistics (parametric and non parametric tests).

Form of instruction

There will be lectures and in-class presentations by students.

Readings


Examination modes

Oral and written examination with open questions.

Other information

Attendance to class lectures is strongly recommended.
Affective Neuroscience and Psychopathology

**Professor:** Giulia Buodo  
**Phone number:** +39 (0) 49 827 7476  
**e-mail:** giulia.buodo@unipd.it  

**Responsible department:** Department of General Psychology - DPG  
**Degree course code / year:** M1B/ 1\(^{st}\) year  
**Main field of study:** Clinical Psychology (Psicologia Clinica, M-PSI/08)  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Lecture hours:** 42  
**Semester:** II

**Contents**

- Affective Neuroscience: general framework  
- Research methods in Affective Neuroscience  
- The neural basis of fear, reward and aggression  
- Anxiety and Depression  
- Psychopathy  
- Schizophrenia

**Expected learning outcomes**

The course will provide an introductory overview of the field of Affective Neuroscience and research methods in this field, with a thorough account of the neural basis of fear, reward and aggression. Then, course topics will cover the contributions of Affective Neuroscience to the understanding of psychopathology, with reference to anxiety and mood disorders, psychopathy and schizophrenia.

**Required Knowledge**

It is assumed that students have adequate knowledge on the structure and functions of central and peripheral nervous system, and on general psychopathology (acquired over the course of the first three years of study).

**Form of instruction**

Frontal lessons will cover the course topics with the aid of audiovisuals. Participation in class discussions will be highly recommended. Students will then move on to a thorough study of the course contents using the indicated textbook and reviews.
Readings


Course material will be available at the Faculty library (*Centro stampa)*

Examination modes

The exam includes a written test in English, with multiple-choice, true/false, and open questions.

Evaluation of student achievement will be made in relation to the understanding of course topics, and the knowledge and integration of key concepts, processes and research methods in the field of Affective Neuroscience.

Other information

Exam registrations by proxy will not be accepted.
Contents

We will consider questions such as: What is the nature of developmental change? What are the brain mechanisms underlying cognitive, perceptual, social, and emotional development during infancy and childhood? We will also evaluate implications of findings from developmental cognitive neuroscience for broader scientific issues including nature vs. nurture, critical periods in development, and the modularity of mental functions. An integral part of the course will be careful consideration of the major methods of developmental cognitive neuroscience including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), recordings of evoked response potentials (ERPs), and behavioral marker tasks. We will devote particular attention to the unique challenges of applying these methods to the study of infants and children.

Expected learning outcomes

With this course the student will review in-depth the neural development of cognitive functions and methods to study the neural mechanism of cognitive development.

Required Knowledge

Basic knowledge on general Cognitive functions like: perception, attention, language and memory.

Form of instruction

Class sessions will usually consist of a short lecture period followed by a student led group presentation and discussion of the weekly readings. In addition, we will visit different labs on campus to learn more about the methods and issues of developmental cognitive neuroscience. The course will be entirely in English.
Readings


Examination modes

Oral and in English.
Experimental Economics: 
Decision Making, Altruism, Cooperation and Competition

Professor: Maria Felicita Dal Martello

Phone number: 049.827.6621

e-mail: maria.dalmartello@unipd.it

Responsible department: Department of General Psychology - DPG

Degree course code / year: M3/1st year

Main field of study: Social Psychology (Psicologia sociale, M-PSI/05)

ECTS Credits: 6

Lecture hours: 42

Semester: II

Contents

Heuristics and Biases in Judgment and Decision Making
Theories on Decision Making
The Evolution of Altruism
Games of Cooperation and Competition
Strong Reciprocity and Human Altruism
Happiness

Expected learning outcomes

This course aims to provide an introductory knowledge of decision making theories and research methods, and, in particular, it will cover social decisions in situations where the choice is between cooperation and competition (i.e. between altruistic and selfish behaviours).

Required Knowledge

Basic knowledge of English.

Form of instruction

The approach used is interdisciplinary. We will examine studies of social and cognitive psychology, behavioural economics, evolutionary biology and social neuro-economics. During lectures students will have the opportunity to participate in frequent empirical demonstrations of the phenomena studied, through ‘games’ inspired by behavioural economics. The course will be given in English.
Readings

Heuristics and Biases:

Theories on Decision Making:

The evolution of altruism:

Games of cooperation and competition:

Strong Reciprocity and Human Altruism:
**Happiness:**

**Examination modes**
Written with open questions

**Other information**
The course will include some lectures given by Professor Laurence T. Maloney of New York University (NYU) on decision making theories, and on decision making and action.
Innovative Ideas in Psychology

Professor: Peter Kramer

Phone number: 049.827.6417

e-mail: peter.kramer@unipd.it

website: www.psy.unipd.it/~kramer

Responsible Department: Department of General Psychology - DPG

Degree course code / year: M1A / 1st year

Main field of study: General and Experimental Psychology (Psicologia Generale, M-PSI/01)

ECTS Credits: 6

Lecture hours: 42

Semester: I

Contents

Among the topics discussed are:

Brain parasites: How parasites take control over brains.
Food's counter-attack: How our daily bread puts our mental health at risk.
Gene battles: How your genes are sacrificing you for their benefit.
Body signs: What your body tells about your brain.
Out of control: How I can know your decisions before you do.
You are somebody else: How you can mistake yourself with somebody else.
Freedom of thought: How your thoughts are not free, but guided by evolution.
Guilty before charged: Why we should consider locking people up before they commit a crime.
Prewired political preferences: How I can know your political preference without asking you.
Arranged partner choice: Why women's choice of men changes with their menstrual cycle.

Expected learning outcomes

The course introduces the most innovative, influential, and cited ideas that have been published in top psychology journals. Research areas considered are perception, attention, memory, thought, emotion, and especially clinical psychology. The ideas either represent an unusual approach or theory, or connect widely different fields of psychological research, or have led to the discovery of a new phenomenon.

Required Knowledge

Students must be able to comprehend scientific English, but need not be able to speak or write English well.
Form of instruction

Each lecture presents the details of a groundbreaking idea, explains why it is particularly important, or shows how it has affected subsequent research. The lectures are supported by audio-visual material and demonstrations.

Readings

Newell & Shanks (in press). Behavioral and Brain Sciences

All literature will be made available.

Examination modes

Written examination with multiple-choice questions.
Laboratory in Experimental Psychology

**Professor:** Giovanni Galfano

**Phone number:** +39 (0) 49 827 6535

**e-mail:** giovanni.galfano@unipd.it

**website:** https://docs psy.unipd.it/claroline/course/index.php?cid=358325_001

**Responsible department:** Department of Developmental Psychology - DPSS

**Degree course code/ year:** M1C / 1st year

**Main field of study:** General and Experimental Psychology (Psicologia Generale, M-PSI/01)

**ECTS Credits:** 6

**Lecture hours:** 42

**Semester:** II

**Contents**

We will start with methodological issues related to experimental psychology and work our way up from lower-level perceptual aspects of cognition, such as vision and object recognition, and then on to higher-level cognitive abilities. The phenomena that will be illustrated and discussed will concern, among others, visual illusions, the pop-out effect, the Simon effect, the Stroop effect, orienting of attention. A strong effort will be made to keep in dealing with theory and lab practice in parallel. Basic methodological aspects underlying the different experimental paradigms will also be given strong emphasis.

**Expected learning outcomes**

The main purpose of this course is to give Italian and foreign students the opportunity to have a direct laboratory experience dealing with various paradigms and phenomena related to human cognition.

**Required Knowledge**

Basic notions in cognitive psychology and methodology.

**Form of instruction**

Lectures will be given in English. Students will be required to actively take part in psychology experiments. By participating in experiments, students can learn first hand how research in experimental psychology is done. In light of the nature of the course, students are strongly invited to attend to the lectures.
Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Material for the course (in English) will be made available on a lecture by lecture basis in the "Materiale didattico online" section in the Faculty website. Other readings (e.g., journal articles) may be added later.

Examination modes

Written (multiple choice questions) with possible oral integration.

Other information

The final exam will consist of 20 written multiple choice questions. In order to participate in the final exam, it is mandatory to register using Uniweb.
Learning Disabilities

Professors: Cesare Cornoldi  
Marco Zorzi  
Phone number: +39 (0)49 827 6603 (Cornoldi) /  6618 (Zorzi)  
e-mail: cesare.conoldi@unipd.it  
marco.zorzi@unipd.it  
website: http://wmlabs.psy.unipd.it (Cornoldi Lab)  
http://ccnl.psy.unipd.it (Zorzi Lab)  
Responsible department: Department of General Psychology- DPG  
Degree course code and year: M1A, 1st year  
Main field of study: General and Experimental Psychology (Psicologia Generale, M-PSI/01)  
ECTS Credits: 6  
Lecture hours: 42  
Semester: I

Contents
The Course intends to promote knowledge and clinical skills on the neural and cognitive bases of learning disabilities. Assessment and intervention procedures will be presented and the students will be involved in practical activities:
1. Definition and identification procedures  
2. Assessment of reading, writing and mathematics. Neuropsychological assessment  
3. Types of intervention  
4. Non-verbal learning disorder, intellectual functioning, comorbidity with ADHD  
5. Computational and neural models of reading and calculation  
6. Cognitive and neural bases of dyslexia  
7. Cognitive and neural bases of dyscalculia

Expected learning outcomes
Students will acquire state-of-the-art knowledge about the cognitive and neural bases of learning disabilities, as well as basic knowledge of the best practices for assessment and intervention.

Required Knowledge
Knowledge of Cognitive Psychology and on Psychological Assessment Principles

Form of instruction
Frontal lectures and practical exercises
Readings


2. A series of papers published in international Journals that will be provided during the course.

Examination modes
Written exam with open questions

Other information
Course material will be available on the course website (http://docs.psy.unipd.it)
Contents

Neural basis of aging;
Neuroimaging of healthy cognitive aging;
Genetics of cognitive aging;
Mild cognitive impairment;
The neuropsychology of pathological aging;
Brain reserve hypothesis;
Cognitive reserve hypothesis

Expected learning outcomes

The goal is to give updated information on recent developments of research and intervention on normal and pathological aging

Required Knowledge

Knowledge of human neuroanatomy, physiology and neuroimage techniques

Form of instruction

Practical example on testing material and single cases discussion.

Readings

Craik F.I., Salthouse, TA (2008) Handbook of aging and cognition, Psychology Press, New York Cap 1, 2, 3, 4
Examination modes

Written with possible oral integration, multiple choice questions.

Other information

Power point and testing materials available for students who attend to the lessons.
Psychology of Emotions.
Theoretical and Applied Aspects

Professor: Vanda Zammuner
Phone number: +39 (0) 49 827 6571
e-mail: vlzammuner@unipd.it
website: http://www.psicologia.unipd.it/home/personale.php?idalberomaterie=49&idpers=72&idalbero=51&lingua=1
Department: Department of Developmental and Social Psychology - DPSS
Degree course code / year: M3/ 1°st year

Main field of study: Social psychology (Psicologia Sociale M-PSI/05)
ECTS Credits: 6
Lecture hours: 42
Semester: I

Contents

The course will provide a basic overview of emotions as multicomponential phenomena, and outline a few relevant issues, including the functional significance of emotions, their role as determinants of action, the concept of basic versus complex emotions, universality versus cultural specificity of emotions (e.g., feelings, facial expressions), gender differences, and the development from childhood to adult age of emotional competences. The course will then focus more in detail on issues of emotion measurement, and on a selection of socially relevant applied concerns - e.g., how emotions shape conflict events, what triggers emotion regulation, what is the relationship between emotions and well-being in work contexts.

Expected learning outcomes

The main purpose of the course is to help students have an overview of the psychology of emotion field and of the implications that studies of emotions have for a better understanding of many socially relevant issues, from subjective well-being to interpersonal and intergroup relationships.

Required Knowledge

Basic notions in cognitive and social psychology, and in research methodology.

Form of instruction

Lectures will be given in English. Students will be required to actively take part in the course by working in small groups (e.g., 2-3 students) preparing a written and oral presentation on 2-3 papers dealing with a specific topic.
By so doing, students will develop critical and synthetizing abilities. In light of the nature and organization of the course, students are strongly invited to attend the lectures from the very beginning.

Readings


A basic reading list of materials (chapters and research articles) for the course (in English) will be made available in the "Materiale didattico online" section in the Faculty website about 2 weeks before the course starts. Other readings will be added later.

Examination modes

About 4-6 written open questions on specific topics dealt with during the course (an oral integration is later possible). Students' own work on assigned readings will also be evaluated.

Other information

In order to participate in the final exam, it is mandatory to register using Uniweb.
Self and Identity: from the Individual to the Social Self

Professor: Mara Cadinu

Phone number: +39 (0) 49 827 6578

e-mail: mara.cadinu@unipd.it

Responsible department: Department of Developmental Psychology - DPSS

Degree course code/year: L3/1st year; M3/1st year

Main field of study: Social Psychology (Psicologia sociale, M-PSI/05)

ECTS Credits: 6

Lecture hours: 42

Semester: II

Contents

The goal of the course is to analyze research in social psychology that focuses on the role of the self. In the first part of the class, we will focus on the way in which the individual self and affects self esteem (implicit vs. explicit), memory, objective self-awareness. Topics will also include self-regulation, self-handicapping, learned helplessness, and threat to the self. In the second part of the class, we will move toward the relational self and the collective, thus analyzing the self as embedded in the social environment, with particular emphasis on the self as a member of social groups. Therefore we will discuss compensatory biases, self-affirmation theory, social identity theory, self-categorization theory, self-stereotyping. We will also discuss the relation between the self and the body and the issue of body self-esteem, which will lead us to the discussion of objectification theory and self-objectification. Finally, we will view the self under a cross-cultural perspective.

Expected learning outcomes

The goal of the course is to analyze research in social psychology that focuses on the role of the self. In the first part of the class, we will focus on how the individual self affects social perception, attitudes and behavior. In the second part of the class, we will analyze the self as embedded in the social environment, with particular emphasis on the self as a member of social groups. Students will be exposed to a large variety of current international research, and are expected to develop a critical approach to this large body of empirical and theoretical literature.

Required Knowledge

Knowledge of basic processes in social psychology. In addition, basic knowledge of the English language is a necessary pre-requisite as all of the texts will be in English and the course language is English.
Form of instruction

The class will be run as a seminar, in which international research on the self will be discussed. Therefore, students are expected to play an active role in the class. During each class meeting, the first hour will consist of frontal lecture (with the active participation of the students), whereas the second hour will be dedicated to the critical discussion of an article. Students will be divided into teams taking opposite stands, either defending or criticizing a given article.

Readings


Examination modes

A final written exam at the end of the course (second half of May) will constitute 50% of the grade. The participation in class and the presentations and discussions of the assigned articles will make up for the remaining 50% of the final grade.

Other Information

Attendance is mandatory. For this class it is necessary to attend at least 90% of class hours.
Social Effects of Mass Media

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Responsible department: Department of Developmental Psychology – DPSS
Degree course code/year: M4B/ 1st year
Main field of study: Social Psychology (Psicologia Sociale, M-PSI/05)
ECTS Credits: 6
Lecture hours: 42
Semester: 1

Contents

After an introduction of some of the basic processes of social influence, the present course will focus on four central mass media effects in more detail. The first will talk about media violence, including violent video games and violent behavior. The second theme will highlight the role of the media in stereotype formation especially towards immigrants. As a third theme, we will focus on the sexualization of the female body in the media, introducing the concept of sexual objectification and its consequences. Finally, we will talk about some positive social effects that the media can have demonstrating that the media can be used to obtain desired social outcomes.

Expected learning outcomes

Instead of giving a broad overview of the different types of media and their effects, some specific mass media effects will be highlighted. This approach should provide students with an in depth analysis allowing them to from a critical view on the social effects of mass media and the way they are studied.

Required Knowledge

In order to participate in the present course it is required to have passed an introductory course in Social Psychology. In addition, basic knowledge of the English language is a necessary pre-requisite as all of the texts will be in English and the course language is English.
Form of instruction

The course focuses on theoretical content on media effects and is organized around recent examples of experimental research. The active participation of students will be encouraged, an important amount of time will be dedicated to discussion and real-life problems will be analyzed.

Readings

Media Violence and violent behavior


Media and stereotype formation


Media and Sexual objectification


Positive media effects


Examination modes

The oral exam for those students who regularly frequent the course will be based on the course’s content (i.e., slides). For those who cannot frequent the course, the exam will consist in writing a 10-15 page paper that they defend on the oral exam. It is highly recommended to ask the professor for precise instructions before writing this paper. One needs to subscribe online (Uniweb) 20 to 7 days before the date of the exam.
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