

Social Interaction and Group Psychology

Brief description of course content (According to the programme's verification report)

Descriptors: Psychology of social interaction. Interpersonal relationships. Group Psychology.

Contents:

- AGGRESSION, HELP AND ALTRUISM
- ATTRACTION, LOVE AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
- SOCIAL INFLUENCE
- SOCIAL IDENTITY
- CONCEPT OF GROUP. STRUCTURE AND TYPES OF GROUP
- GROUP FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT
- DECISION-MAKING IN GROUPS. COMMUNICATION AND GROUP COHESION
- LEADERSHIP
- INTERGROUP RELATIONS. PREJUDICE. CONFLICT.

Learning outcomes

Training objectives:

- To understand psycho-social theories about social and group interaction processes.
- To understand the basic psycho-social processes involved in social and group interaction
- To understand the models, methods and concepts about the basic psycho-social processes of social and group interaction.

Planned learning activities

Theory Syllabus

THEORETICAL SYLLABUS:

BLOCK 1: SOCIAL INTERACTION PROCESSES

TOPIC 1. AGGRESSION

1. Definition and types of aggression
2. Determinants of aggression
3. Explanatory theories of human aggression
4. Culture and aggression

Topic 2: HELP AND ALTRUISM

1. Definition of helping behaviour and altruism
2. Evolutionary origins of altruism
3. Motivational factors and altruism
4. Individual differences in helping behaviour
5. Influence of cognitive factors in help
6. Socio-cultural context and help

Topic 3. ATTRACTION, LOVE AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

1. Initial attraction
2. Choice of partner
3. Love
4. Partner relationship

TOPIC 4. SOCIAL INFLUENCE

1. Influence and related concepts
2. Normalization
3. Conformity
4. The minority influence
5. Influence tactics

TOPIC 5: SELF-CONCEPT AND SOCIAL IDENTITY

1. From the self to the social self
2. Components of the social self
3. Functions of the social self
4. The social self as a product of interpersonal and group interaction
5. Cultural differences in the social self

BLOCK 2: GROUP PROCESSES

TOPIC 6. CONCEPT, FORMATION. STRUCTURE AND TYPES OF GROUP.

1. Introduction
2. Historical development of the study of groups in Social Psychology.
3. Definition of group
4. Group formation, development and socialization
5. Group structure
6. Types of group

TOPIC 7. RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN GROUPS

1. Introduction
2. Decision-making in groups
3. Communication and cohesion in groups
4. Leadership

TOPIC 8. INTERGROUP RELATIONS. PREJUDICE. CONFLICT.

1. Introduction
2. Main theoretical approaches in the study of intergroup relations: realistic conflict theory, mere categorisation effect, social identity theory, self-categorisation theory
3. Intergroup conflicts: effects and consequences, conflict resolution strategies
4. Intergroup emotions
5. Prejudice: definition of prejudice, new forms of prejudice, consequences for victims of prejudice, reducing prejudice.

For each topic, teaching staff will make a presentation of the contents which may be the most challenging for students (large group class). For each topic we estimate an average time of 4 hours. The material for each topic must be read in advance by the student so that in the classroom they can ask questions and thus support their learning. The format of theoretical classes will be of an explanatory nature, where a brief presentation of the contents included in the theoretical programme will be given, and the necessary material considered appropriate for its development (slides, reading references, etc.) will be provided, so students can have the most complete formation possible in each of the subjects dealt with. The course will have web support. Among the resources provided, the student can find self-assessments, questionnaires to immediately check the learning level of the acquired knowledge.

Practical Syllabus

As a reference, the **Student Handbook** will be used as the criteria for the training and assessment of transversal skills through practical activities. A wide variety of activities is proposed for each topic, which will allow students to work independently.

These activities will also vary in terms of methodology:

- Written response to a series of questions or exercises (provided by teaching staff) which permit the psycho-social knowledge included in the topic to be applied in everyday situations. This may be assessment questionnaires of some of the psycho-social processes studied. Individual work.
- To ask students to search for examples in their immediate reality which illustrate certain concepts and theories dealt with in this subject. Individual work.
- Small group work following the methodology of “problem-based learning”. An issue is raised, groups are created to make hypotheses and explanations about this situation, then information which confirms or refutes the hypothesis is sought and finally a conclusion is reached. The group must present a report with the steps followed.
- Carrying out small research studies (with quantitative or qualitative methodology) to apply the different theoretical frameworks dealt with in the topics. Individual work or in a small group.

- Group dynamics to observe group processes such as communication or group decision-making.
- Class debates about some of the topics previously addressed at the theoretical level, supported by audiovisual and written material. Moreover, students have to create a report on the documentary screened, trying to integrate the contents shown with the subject's theoretical corpus.