



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Psicologia Economica e del Lavoro

1920-3-E2004P025

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#### Learning area

3: Study of the means by which communication takes place

#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- The history and theories of work psychology.
- Psychology applied to organizational dynamics.
- Kafka as a theorist of organizations.
- Individualism and collectivism
- Homo oeconomicus.

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- Improving the literacy on organizational terms
- Basic skills in decoding an organization
- Approaching the organizational analysis through the narration
- Basic skills in decoding the psychological problems in economic events

#### Contents

The fundamental aim of the course is to introduce the student to both the study of the work psychology and the investigation of the psychological side of the economic life, particularly stressing the concept of homo oeconomicus.

## **Detailed program**

- The structure of the feudal agrarian economic model
- The psychological collectivism in the feudal agrarian model
- The industrial revolution and its psychological implications: the birth of individualism
- Taylor and the new organization of work in factories
- The overcoming of Taylor and the movement of Human Relations
- Kafka expert and narrator of the work and of modern organizations
- The slow and long end of collectivism in western societies
- Psychological problems arising from the hegemony of the individualistic homo oeconomicus

## **Prerequisites**

No prerequisite is indispensable to the student, beyond a basic psychological knowledge. Nor it is necessary an education in economics of any kind

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures, discussions, seminars on specific themes, groups of students aimed at the study of specific topics. In order to improve the level of motivation and efficiency, students who attend the course on a regular basis have the opportunity to write a short essay.

## **Assessment methods**

Oral examination on all the course topics.

The exam aims at ascertaining the effective acquisition of theoretical notions and of the ability to decode organizations and economic events.

The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers, the ability to argue, synthesize, create links, and critically read the reality.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Novara F., Sarchielli G. (1996). Fondamenti di psicologia del lavoro. Bologna: Il Mulino (from p.50 up to p.111).

Ferrari L. (2014). Alle fonti del kafkiano. Lavoro e individualismo in Franz Kafka. Piacenza: Vicolo del Pavone (chapters: 1, 2, 3).

Ferrari L. (2016). L'ascesa dell'individualismo economico. Second edition Piacenza: Vicolo del Pavone (chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 16; one chapter out of chapters: 5 -15).

More detailed information will be available at the proper page of the e-learning site

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