

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Apprendimento, Pensiero e Decisione

1920-2-E2004P008

Learning area

STUDY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS UNDERLYING COMMUNICATION

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Human cognition
- Development of knowledge and beliefs
- Psychological factors biasing human knowledge and its employment

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Applying what is known of human cognitive processes to the comprehension of common social and communication contexts
- Devising debiasing methods for the correct communication of information

Contents

The course analyses in detail, and with practical examples, the main empirical studies and theoretical models concerning learning, concept development, deductive and inductive reasoning, hypotheses testing, problem solving, and decision making.

Detailed program

- learning
- concepts and categorization
- reasoning, exploration and testing of hypotheses, problem solving
- decision making

Prerequisites

Detailed knowledge of the experimental methods in psychology. Basic knowledge of the working of memory, attention, perception, emotions, and motivations. Knowledge of logic and statistics is helpful.

Teaching methods

Lectures

Assessment methods

Written exam (steps 1 and 2) with optional oral exam (step 3).

1st step: 40 closed-choice, computer-based questions. The aim of the closed-choice test is to extensively check the notional knowledge of the student, both on basic theoretical notions and on empirical/methodological details. Each question offers 4 alternative answers: the correct option is worth 3 points, each wrong option subtracts 1 point, and each unanswered question is worth 0 points. The maximum score is 120 points. A fully sufficient pass requires at least 60 points. However, the student – albeit insufficient – can go on to the next step even if he/she scores between 40 and 60. Supplementary materials distributed on the course website include several closed-choice questions for training to this step.

2nd step. Three computer-based open-answer questions. The aim of the open-answer questions is to intensively check the depth of understanding of the student on three critically important concepts or empirical studies. Each

answer is corrected by the teacher, and is assigned a score ranging from 0 (unanswered question, or totally not consequential or patently wrong answer) to 10 (well-argued complete and correct answer). The sum of the scores of the three questions, possibly adjusted upward or downward in case of exceptionally good or insufficient closed-choice test score, is either the final grade of the exam, or – if the grade is at least 18 – the starting grade of the optional oral exam.

The student has three days from the publication of the grades of the written exam for accepting the grade, retiring from the exam, or else requiring an oral exam (please remember that also the teacher can ask for an oral exam: in this latter case, the student cannot accept the grade of the written exam and, in case he/she is absent from the oral exam, he/she will be considered retired).

3rd step: optional oral exam. The oral exam has two parts. Firstly, the open answers to the written exam will be discussed and possibly self-corrected and completed by the student. This part is increasingly long/intensive with decreasing grades in the written exam, and it enables the student to understand why his/her exam was so graded. Secondly, each student receives one new question in order to verify his/her depth of understanding and abilities at communicating effectively one critical issue of the program. If he/she answers completely and correctly, the starting grade is increased by one, and the student can decide whether to receive another question (iteratively) or terminate the exam. If not, the starting grade is decreased by one, and the exam terminates.

Success rate was 61% in 16/17, 54% in 17/18, 35% in 18/19 (but the 18/19 sessions were not completed when this syllabus was written)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Cherubini P. (a cura di) (2012). *Psicologia generale*. Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore.

Chapter 1: paragraphs 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.4.1, 1.4.2.

Whole chapters 7, 8, 9 .

Chapter 13: paragraphs from 13.1 to and including 13.3.3

Take notice that the topics that are not explained in lectures, but are present in the indicated paragraphs of the textbook, **are** part of the exam programme. Take also notice that the indicated textbook sections are to be studied **completely** and **extensively** (including boxes, figures and captions). distribuito tramite il sito online dell'insegnamento. Possible support materials can be made available by the teacher on the course website.
