



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Filosofia della Scienza

1920-2-E2401P064

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#### Learning area

INTERDISCIPLINARY COMPETENCES

#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- What is a science
- Reasoning and explanation in science
- Scientific theories and truth
- Theory-change
- Philosophy of psychiatry

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- Critical analysis of papers
- Discussion of ideas and assumptions in philosophy and science
- Philosophical reflections on the current status of the sciences of mental disorder.
- The laboratory aims to increase the general culture of the student and his critical sense.

#### Contents

## Lectures

First part, basic notions. What is science, models of scientific explanation, reasoning in science, realism and antirealism, scientific revolutions.

Second part, application to the philosophy of psychiatry. Competing models of mental disorder, medicine and culture in mental disorders, issues about contemporary diagnostic classifications.

Third part. Social sciences and natural science, a comparison. Reading and discussion of two classics, by T.Kuhn and Marc Bloch.

## Detailed program

### Lectures

to what extent science resembles or differs from other ways of knowing.

How can one characterize scientific explanation?

philosophical accounts of scientific theory-change, including falsificationism and paradigm changes.

the scientific realism debate, concerning whether and to what extent scientific theories tell us what really exists.

In the second part of the course, we focus on topics in the philosophy of psychiatry,

- the nature of mental illness versus physical illness
- its relation to values, society, and brain sciences
- current classifications of mental disorders

Third part: Ideas on the nature and methodology of the social sciences vs the natural sciences. Reading and discussion of two classics (in Italian translation): *La struttura delle rivoluzioni scientifiche* (1962) by Thomas Kuhn and *Apologia della storia o Mestiere di storico* (1949) di Marc Bloch.

## Prerequisites

None

## Teaching methods

Lectures, analysis of texts and images

## **Assessment methods**

Written text with open questions (5 on the First and Second part, 2 on the Third one)

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

*Students from all courses:*

*M.C. Galavotti e R. Campaner (2018) Filosofia della Scienza. Milano: Egea*

*Bloch, M. (1998). Apologia della storia o Mestiere di storico. Torino: Einaudi*

*Kuhn T.S. (2010). La struttura delle rivoluzioni scientifiche. Torino: Einaudi*

*Psychology students*

Guerini, R. e Marraffa, M. (2020) Psicopatologia e scienze della mente, Roma: Carocci, Chapters. 2,3 and 4 (chapter 1 is optional)

Lalumera. E. (2018) Filosofia della psichiatria , Aphex 1

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