UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Thought and Communication

2021-3-E2401P016

Learning area

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS USEFUL TO UNDERSTAND, PROMOTE AND CHANGE INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Higher level cognitive processing: human reasoning and judgment processes

- The relationship between thinking and communication

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to analyze reasoning problems from a pragmatic perspective

- Ability to analyze theories and experiments through the development of critical and argumentative thinking

Contents

The course will explore and discuss the main theories and recent experimental evidence on thinking and reasoning, decision making, and communication.

Detailed program

- Probabilistic reasoning and decision making (with a focus on bounded rationality)

- Problem solving: the representation of the task

- Pragmatics of communication

- The pragmatic approach to the study of thinking

Prerequisites

Students are assumed to have completed the exam of General Psychology 2 and thus some notions about the study of thinking are taken for granted. Students lacking such basic knowledge should contact the teacher.

Teaching methods

In COVID-19 emergency period, lessons will be taken through asynchronous e-learning with some synchronous events.

Part of the teaching will take place through the discussion of experiments and scientific articles.

The material (slides and, when possible, scientific articles) is made available on the e-learning site of the course.

Students can deepen the knowledge of some course topics through the development of a research project (with a written essay and a presentation) that moves from a critical analysis of an experiment or a problem.

Assessment methods

In COVID-19 emergency period, exams will be remote through Webex platform. A public link to attend the exams as observers will be published on the course webpage (e-learning website).

The exam is written with open questions. The questions are aimed at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to critically analyze the research literature on the relationship between thinking and communication. The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers, the ability to argue, synthesize, create links, and critically read the research literature.

For those students who request it, an oral interview is also provided, on all the topics of the course, which can lead to an increase or decrease of up to 3 points compared to the score of the written exam.

For students involved in the development of a research project an ad hoc examination will be offered. This will consist in:

- Mid-term assignment: Groupwork on development and presentation of a research project on a reasoning problem (30% of final grade)

- End-term assignment: Individual essay on the research project (50% of final grade)

- Oral interview on the project and the literature reviewed (20% of final grade).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

All the teaching materials will be posted on the e-learning page of the course.