UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Percezione e Attenzione

2021-2-E2401P109

Learning area

1: Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Major topics in psychology of perception and attention.
- Theories and methods in the perception and attention research.
- The interaction between perception-attention

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to critically analyze results of the most recent works in attention and perception
- Ability to understand and assimilate contents of original research papers in attention and perception
- Ability to recognize the non-pathological cognitive functioning

Contents

The course aims to provide students with advanced tools to learn and study two specific cognitive processes: perception and attention. We discuss how these two distinct processes have interlinked roles in the interpretation of the world around us.

Detailed program

Perception:

- psychological theories of perception;
- perceptual organization;
- perceptual constancies;
- perceptual illusions;
- the perception of space;
- chromatic and achromatico colors, and the perception of light.

Attention:

  - classic experimental paradigms;
  - selective attention: theories and phenomena;
  - orientation of spatial attention and eye movements, attention in time.

Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has acquired the contents of an introductory course in Experimental Psychology. Knowledge of the English language is also required.

Teaching methods

The course will consist of lectures followed by moments of discussion with the students where specific experimental will be analyzed and discussed.

During the course some works in English we will be presented and commented in order to accustom the student to the reading of original literature.

Students attending with regularity the lessons will have the chance to present and discuss a paper of their choice during a lesson (*Journal club* style).

Lessons will be held in presence or through online video lessons, according to the University's regulations regarding the COVID-19 emergency situation. In both cases, all lessons will be video recorded and made available to the students.

Assessment methods

Written and oral exam. The written exam consists of two parts: multiple choice questions and open-ended questions on the course topics. The multiple choice questions aim at testing the acquisition of certain knowledge, whilst the open-ended questions aim at testing the ability to combine notions and research methodologies in a critical way. The oral part will be modulated based on the outcome of the written test.

For students attending the course, the examination can be partially or totally replaced with activities to be held during term time. These are: 1) journal club style presentation of a paper during the lessons; 2) writing a research project based on a paper chosen by the student among those proposed during the lessons.

During the Covid-19 emergency, exams will be conducted according to the University's regulations regarding the COVID-19 emergency situation.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Kaniza, G. (1997). *Grammatica del vedere. Saggi su Percezione e Gestalt.* Bologna: Il Mulino (Capp. 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10).

Other reference books and articles on the topics of the course will be published on the course e-learning website before the start of classes.