UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Psychology

2021-1-E2401P004

Learning area

I. Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

? Developments and main theories in the evolution of psychological knowledge;

? the epistemological status of psychology and its social role;

? providing a scientific and cultural background.

Applying knowledge and understanding

? Giving well-rooted and in-depth direction to the current psychological knowledge;

? Interdisciplinarity;

? Recognising the relationships between different fields of psychological knowledge.

Contents

The course aims to present an overview of the problems related to the birth of scientific psychology, promoting a critical reflection on the theoretical, methodological and epistemological assumptions and on the social conditioning that have historically guided its development. It will focus on the origin, evolution and transformation of the main perspectives of research from the mid-nineteenth Century up to the present day, placing them in their proper historical context and highlighting their dominant research program.

Detailed program

? The “long past” of psychology in ancient, medieval and modern thought;

? The rise of experimental psychology in Germany and in other countries during the second half of the nineteenth century;

? Early American psychology between structuralism and functionalism;

? The phenomenological tradition and Gestalt psychology;

? Psychodynamic approaches and psychoanalysis;

? The Cultural-Historical perspective;

? Behaviourism and reflexology;

? From behaviourism to cognitive psychology.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Teaching method consists of lectures accompanied by a critical discussion with the students on illustrated topics and concepts.

In order to facilitate those students who do not attend classes, the teaching material (slides) is made available on the e-learning webpage of the course.

During the Covid-19 emergency period, lessons will take place online asynchronously, with some live lectures and some synchronous videoconferencing.

Assessment methods

The verification of learning will be carried out through a written test, divided into a part with multiple-choice questions and a part with open questions. The questions are aimed at testing the effective acquisition of the topics illustrated during the course, as well as to ascertain the ability to manage the contents of the proposed bibliography

and the capability to critically deal with them.

Participation in the optional activities (exercises, conferences, etc.) proposed during the course contributes to the final evaluation (only for attending students).

Upon the student's request, the exam can be integrated by an oral examination, on all the course topics.

During the Covid-19 emergency period, written exams will take place remotely online through 'esamionline' platform. Supplementary oral examinations will be exclusively held in telematic mode through WebEx platform; a public link will be provided on the e-learning page of the course to permit the public access to exams.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Mecacci, L. (2008). *Manuale di storia della psicologia*. Firenze: Giunti (capitoli: 1, 2, 3, 4).

Mecacci, L. (2019). *Storia della psicologia. Dal Novecento a oggi*. Roma- Bari: Laterza (capitoli: 1, 2; 3, paragrafi 1-5; 4, paragrafi 1-5; 5, paragrafi 1-8; 6, paragrafi 1-3; 7, paragrafi 1-5).