UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Developmental Psychology

2021-1-E2401P010

Learning area

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

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Aims of the class are:

- To provide students with basic knowledge about theories of psychological development.
- To illustrate changes occurring in psychological functions and behaviour from birth to adolescence in the areas of perceptual, cognitive, emotional and social development.
- To introduce students to the most critical issues related to the explanation of developmental change and the mechanisms behind those changes.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Understanding the challenge of explaining psychological development.
- Gain perspective on biological, physical, cognitive, and social-emotional changes across the lifespan.
- Developing critical thinking about historical and current arguments in the field.

Contents

Major theories of psychological development will be presented, as they relate to the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial aspects of development from conception to adolescence, with particular emphasis on Piaget's theory.

Lectures will include examples of the most representative research in the field.

Detailed program

- Defining development
- Core issues in developmental psychology
- Theories and methods in developmental psychology (Behaviorism, Constructivism, Cognitivism)
- Cognitive development
- Development of language and communication
- Affective and emotional development
- Social development
- Moral development

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

In addition to frontal lectures, the course offers guided discussions of video presentations.

Slides and scientific papers are made available to students through the e-learning website.

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

The exam is written with oral interview upon request. The written exam includes multiple choice questions and open questions. Multiple choice questions provide extensive evaluation of knowledge acquisition; open questions evaluate students' critical thinking on such knowledge.

Students may ask to attend an oral interview, in addition to the written exam, on all the topics included in the Syllabus.

Evaluation criteria are as follows: response accuracy for multiple choice questions, adequacy of contents, formal organization and terminology for the answers to open questions.

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

- Lecture Slides.

- Santrock, J.W., Deater-Deckard, K., Landsford, J. - Rollo, D. (2021) Psicologia dello Sviluppo. IV edizione - Mc Graw Hill

- Murray, L. (2015). Le prime relazioni del bambino. Cortina

- Macchi Cassia, V., Valenza, E., Simion, F. (2012). Lo sviluppo della mente umana. Il Mulino