

# UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

# **General Psychology II - 1**

2021-2-E2401P007-T1

## Learning area

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

## Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Theories and recent experimental findings on the cognitive processes involved in the generation of concepts, beliefs, and opinions
- Theories and recent experimental findings on how people solve problems
- Theories and recent experimental findings on how people make a decision, both in individual and interactive contexts
- · Main issues in the psychology of language

Applying knowledge and understanding

- · Analysis of behavior of individuals
- · Determination of the optimal course of action in different contexts
- Use of simple quantitative psychological models

• Use of simple tool for inference and probability computation

#### **Contents**

Students will be introduced to theoretical and experimental issues on psychology of reasoning, problem solving, decision making, language and communication.

## **Detailed program**

#### **LECTURES**

### Language

- you will be studying language comprehension and production by illustrating the major psycholinguistic models relating to the recognition of words and sentence comprehension.
- the theory of conversational implicature by Grice.

#### Thinking and reasoning

- concept formation and categorization
- deductive reasoning
- · probabilistic reasoning and decision making
- problem solving

It will be considered some of the key issues of psychological research on thought, such as:

- the competence of the human cognitive system and the question of "bounded rationality";
- errors and biases in probabilistic, deductive reasoning and in decision making;
- the function of the context and content in reasoning

solvir	the problem forming and the nature of cognitive processes underlying insight and non-insight problem- ng;
	the effects on the thought of the psycorhetorical dymension of the discourse.
some	issues in the current debate on the pragmatic dimension of thought will be also addressed, such as:
	the argumentative function of thought, the interactional intelligence and the communicative heuristics.
different types of communications will be considered as instances:	
•	the explanation;
•	the vacuous discourse;
•	the scientific discourse;
•	the demonstrative discourse.
Prerequisites	
Teaching methods	
Lectures, discussions, experiments.	
regar	ons will be held in presence or through online video lessons, according to the University's regulations ding the COVID-19 emergency situation. In both cases, all lessons will be video recorded and made available students.
Assessment methods	
Oral examination.	

# **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Mosconi G.(1997). Discorso e Pensiero. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Levinson S.T.C. (1985). La pragmatica. Bologna: Il Mulino (cap. III).

Materiali per il corso di Psicologia generale 2 (Prof.ssa Laura Macchi)-Corso di Laurea in Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche, Università Milano-Bicocca. Ed. Il Mulino (2020).