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

· the problem forming and the nature of cognitive processes underlying insight and non-insight problem-solving;

· 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.

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

Oral examination.

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

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).