UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Forensic Medicine

2122-5-A5810189

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Mastering forensic medicine, in the criminal law context, and forensic psychopathology approaches to the phenomenon of violent crime. Critical analysis of the national and international literature in the field.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- interpretation of the relationship between psychopathology and violent crime in its multiple forms through case studies
- ability to apply qualitative methodologies
- ability to dialogue with other disciplines

Contents

Starting from a historical and disciplinary framework of forensic medicine in the criminal law arena, the course will deal with the research horizons of forensic psychopathology, adopting an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. In the first part, the relationship between psychopathology and violent crime will be studied in depth, and will include elements of victimology in order to understand and evaluate harms to the person. In the second part of the course, specific themes will be focussed upon: the relationship between alcohol, drugs and violent crime; imputability and ethnopsychiatry; psychology and psychopathology of the white-collar criminal. In dealing with these issues, an innovative path will be built, aimed at reaching an understanding of the psychopathological dimensions of criminal behaviour.

Detailed program

Starting from a historical and disciplinary framework of forensic medicine in the criminal law arena, the course will deal with the research horizons of forensic psychopathology, adopting a comparative and interdisciplinary approach. In the first part, there will be a study in depth of the relationship between psychopathology and violent crime (homicide, assault, personal injury, sexual violence, domestic violence, infanticide) favouring a perspective of narrative psychopathology and introducing elements of victimology in order to understand and evaluate harms to the person. In the second part of the course, attention will focus on some themes central to the actual scientific discussion of legal medicine and forensic psycho-pathology: the relationship between alcohol, drugs and violent crime; imputablilty and ethnopsychiatry; psychology and psychopathology of the white-collar criminal. In dealing with these themes, an innovative path will be built, aimed at reaching an understanding of the psychopathological dimensions of criminal behaviour.

In short:

- introduction to legal medicine and forensic psychopathology
- psycho-pathology and violent crime
- alcohol, drugs and violent crime
- imputability and social dangerousness
- crime scene and circumstantial paradigm
- psychology and psycho-pathology of white-collar crime
- elements of victimology and evaluation of harm

Prerequisites

Good skills in learning, writing and oral communication.

Teaching methods

Lectures, discussions, video presentations. The course will also enhance the active role of the students who will be able to assimilate the theoretical and methodological approaches proposed (learning by doing).

Assessment methods

Oral examination: it will be a discussion based on the course texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

By choice from the following groups of texts:

1st group:

Bandini-Rocca (2010), Fondamenti di psicopatologia forense. Giuffré

Ciappi (2013), Psicopatologia narrativa. Funzionamento del sé e pratica clinica. LAS

2nd group:

Bandini-Rocca (2010), Fondamenti di psicopatologia forense. Giuffré

Merzagora, Travaini, Pennati (2016), Colpevoli della crisi? Psicologia e psicopatologia del criminale dal colletto bianco. Franco Angeli

3nd group:

Bandini-Rocca (2010), Fondamenti di psicopatologia forense. Giuffré

Merzagora (2017), Lo straniero a giudizio. Tra psicopatologia e diritto. Cortina.

4th group:

Bandini-Rocca (2010), Fondamenti di psicopatologia forense. Giuffré

Baron-Cohen, S. (2012), La scienza del male. L'empatia e le origini della crudeltà. Cortina

5th group:

Bandini-Rocca (2010), Fondamenti di psicopatologia forense. Giuffré

Foucault, M. (a cura di) (2020 [1973]), Io, Pierre Rivière, avendo sgozzato mia madre, mia sorella e mio fratello… Un caso di parricidio nel XIX secolo. Einaudi