



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Perception and Attention

2122-2-E2401P109

Learning area

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

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Major topics in psychology of perception and attention.
- Theories and methods in the perception and attention research.
- The interaction between perception-attention

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to critically analyze results of the most recent works in attention and perception
- Ability to understand and assimilate contents of original research papers in attention and perception
- Ability to recognize the non-pathological cognitive functioning

Contents

The course aims to provide students with advanced tools to learn and study two specific groups of processes: visual perception and spatial attention. It will be discussed how these two distinct groups of processes are interlinked and the role they play in the interpretation of the world around us.

Detailed program

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- classic experimental paradigms;
- selective attention: theories and phenomena;
- attentional capture and inattention blindness

Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has acquired the contents of an introductory course in Experimental Psychology. Knowledge of the English language is also required.

Teaching methods

The course will consist of lectures followed by moments of discussion with the students where specific experimental will be analyzed and discussed.

During the course some works in English we will be presented and commented in order to accustom the student to the reading of original literature.

Students attending with regularity the lessons will have the chance to present and discuss a paper of their choice during a lesson (*Journal club* style).

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19 related restrictions are imposed.

Assessment methods

The exam is oral and it aims at testing the acquisition of certain knowledge and the ability to combine notions and research methodologies in a critical way.

For students attending the course, the oral exam can be replaced with two activities to be held during term time. These must be both carried out and consist in: 1) journal club style presentation of a paper during the lessons; 2) writing a research project based on a paper chosen by the student among those proposed during the lessons.

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

Slides

Kaniza, G. (1997). *Grammatica del vedere. Saggi su Percezione e Gestalt*. Bologna: Il Mulino (Capp. 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10).

Other reference books and articles on the topics of the course will be published on the course e-learning website before the start of classes.
