



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### History of Psychology

2122-1-E2401P004

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#### Learning area

Learning Area n. 1. Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning

#### Learning objectives

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- Developments and main theories in the evolution of psychological knowledge;
- the epistemological status of psychology and its social role;
- providing a scientific and cultural background.

##### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- Giving well-rooted and in-depth direction to the current psychological knowledge;
- Interdisciplinarity;
- Recognising the relationships between different fields of psychological knowledge.

#### Contents

The course aims to present an overview of the problems related to the birth of scientific psychology, promoting a critical reflection on the theoretical, methodological and epistemological assumptions and on the social conditioning

that have historically guided its development. It will focus on the origin, evolution and transformation of the main perspectives of research from the mid-nineteenth Century up to the present day, placing them in their proper historical context and highlighting their dominant research program.

## **Detailed program**

- The “long past” of psychology in ancient, medieval and modern thought;
- The rise of experimental psychology in Germany and in other countries during the second half of the nineteenth century;
- Early American psychology between structuralism and functionalism;
- The phenomenological tradition and Gestalt psychology;
- Psychodynamic approaches and psychoanalysis;
- The Cultural-Historical perspective;
- Behaviourism and reflexology;
- From behaviourism to cognitive psychology.

## **Prerequisites**

None

## **Teaching methods**

Teaching method consists of lectures accompanied by a critical discussion with the students on illustrated topics and concepts.

In order to facilitate those students who do not attend classes, the teaching material (slides) is made available on the e-learning webpage of the course.

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

## **Assessment methods**

The verification of learning will be carried out through a written test, divided into a part with multiple-choice questions and a part with open questions. The questions are aimed at testing the effective acquisition of the topics illustrated during the course, as well as to ascertain the ability to manage the contents of the proposed bibliography and the capability to critically deal with them.

Participation in the optional activities (exercises, conferences, etc.) proposed during the course contributes to the final evaluation (only for attending students).

Upon the student's request, the exam can be integrated by an oral examination, on all the course topics.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Mecacci, L. (2008). *Manuale di storia della psicologia*. Firenze: Giunti (capitoli: 1, 2, 3, 4).

Mecacci, L. (2019). *Storia della psicologia. Dal Novecento a oggi*. Roma- Bari: Laterza (capitoli: 1, 2; 3, paragrafi 1-5; 4, paragrafi 1-5; 5, paragrafi 1-8; 6, paragrafi 1-3; 7, paragrafi 1-5).

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