



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### General Psychology II - 1

2122-2-E2401P007-T1

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#### 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 psychorhetorical dimension 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.

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

## **Assessment methods**

Open questions (brief exposition of topics covered in class) and oral examination on topics covered in class.

## **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).

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