



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Experimental Clinical Psychology

2122-1-F5105P006

Learning area

Applied Experimental Psychological Sciences

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Clinical psychological sciences: Methods and areas of investigation
- Research designs for treatment evaluation
- Experimental psychopathology: Investigating abnormal behavior, cognition, and emotion

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Understanding, analysis, and evaluation of research designs in clinical psychology
- Identifying and analyzing the critical elements of research designs for treatment evaluation
- Applying experimental paradigms for the investigation of abnormal behavior, cognition, and emotion

Contents

Clinical psychological research is often concerned with investigating the causes of abnormal behavior, cognition, —

Detailed program

- Methodological and design considerations central to the scientific evaluation of treatment efficacy and —
- Strengths and weaknesses of different treatment evaluation designs (recent developments in ———)
- Experimental psychopathology as a way to elucidate the processes underlying abnormal behavior.
- Methodological approaches and paradigms employed in experimental psychopathology research.
- The Experience Sampling Method (ESM) as a way to improve our understanding of how psychopathological ———

Prerequisites

A background in abnormal psychology and basic knowledge of psychotherapeutic interventions will help in ———

Teaching methods

The course will consist of lessons, classwork, discussion on scientific papers, group works and assignments. ———

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

Assessment methods

The exam will verify the level of mastery of the course contents with special attention to:

- Methods and research designs for treatment evaluation;
- Methods and research designs in experimental psychopathology;
- Ability to elaborate course contents;
- Ability to analyze a scientific paper in the field of clinical psychology.

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions and open-ended questions on the course topics (with optional oral examination).

For students attending lessons an ad hoc examination will be offered. This will consist in:

- Mid-term assignment: Project work on development and presentation of a research project in clinical psychology (20% of final grade)
- End-term assignment: Critical analysis of a scientific paper (30% of final grade) consisting in an individual essay.
- End-term multiple choice test on course content (50% of final grade)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be provided at the beginning of the course and published in the course web-site.
