UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Healthy and Pathological Family Interactions

2122-2-F5104P015

Learning area

Psychological functioning: models and methods for assessment

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Normative and not critical events and their possible pathological outcomes;
- Support models for specific critical events;
- The role of the psychologist within family systems.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Basic understanding of the assessment of family pathology;
- Basic knowledge of observational techniques of family dynamics;
- Understanding requests and predisposing interventions.

Contents

The aim of the course is to develop student abilities pertaining to:

the analysis and understanding of the development of family and couple typical and atypical functioning related to normative and not events;

In particular considering the developmental tasks of new family configurations and current socio-economic changes;

Changes resulting from critical events will also be discussed;

Finally, a model for evaluating and intervening in these specific relational realties.

Detailed program

- family configurations and supplementary developmental tasks in the family life cycle, and associated risk factors ad indices of adaptation
- atypical critical events (traumas; cancer and cardiac pathologies; natural disasters; terroristic attacks; grief; dementia etc);
- instruments for the assessment and intervention in families;
- the psychological profession in different contexts.

Prerequisites

A good knowledge of of the basis of Psychodynamics of development and family relations and Family Counseling enables a more aware use of the course contents. Students lacking such basic knowledge are encourage to ask for a list of basic references.

Teaching methods

Lessons will be held in presence, unless the occurrence of a new COVID-19 emergency

Classroom lectures are combined with the case studies, video presentations focused on the course topics and guided exercises, discussion of scientific articles.

These modalities have the purpose of making the course contents more usable and facilitate the acquisition of specific skills on the family system and on the tools for the evaluation of relational processes.

Most of the material used in the classroom (excluding films) will be made available on the e-learning site of the course, accessible to both attending students and non-attending students.

Assessment methods

The verification of learning will be carried out through a written (required), oral (optional) examination aimed at verifying the specific knowledge of the main theoretical aspects of the course. The knowledge about the instruments used in the evaluation of relational processes will be the main subject of evaluation. A specific attention will be given to the knowledge of the technical language, the understanding and the evaluation of the normal and pathological functioning of the family.

The written questions are open questions and/or multiple choice questions (with only one correct answer).

The oral examination covers the whole program. In order to access the oral examination, it's necessary have a score of at least 18 in the written part.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. Walsh, F. (2008). La resilienza familiare. Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore. Tutta la prima parte fino a pagina 205 e da pag. 273 a pag. 317.

2. Salerno, A. (2010), Vivere insieme. Bologna: Il Mulino editore.

3. Andolfi, M., Mascellani A. (2020). Intimità di coppia e trame familiari: Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore.

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.