UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Forensic Psychopathology

2122-2-F5104P022-F5104P022M

Learning area

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Mental capacity in litigation from the psychopathologic and neuropsychological perspectives .
- Assessment of psychological, cognitive and behavioral functioning, and relevant theoretical models.
- The neuroscientific approach in forensic settings

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Forensic issues in the diagnosis of psychopathological and neuropsychological conditions.
- Assessment instruments (psychopathology and cognitive deficits) in forensic practice.

Contents

The course offers a methodological and theoretical overview of forensic psychopathology and neuropsychology, including the most up-to-date findings in neuroscience. Practical and theoretical problems in the forensic assessment of psychological and cognitive functioning will be faced.

Detailed program

- Types and contents of forensic reports, and relevant legal background.
- Diagnosis and theoretical models.
- Imputability
- Malingered mental illness and cognitive disorders
- Psychodiagnostic and neuropsychological instruments in forensic psychology.
- Psychodiagnostic instruments in forensic psychology and neuropsychology.
- Psychopathy and violence: psychopathology, assessment and neurobiological substrates
- The approach of forensic neuroscience.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of clinical psychology and neuropsychology (including methods commonly used in cognitive neuroscience) is a prerequisite for course attendance.

Teaching methods

In addition to classroom lectures, part of the teaching will consist in practical-clinical on the topics of the course: discussion of forensic cases, exercises on the forensic methodologies.

The material (slides, international and national scientific articles), along with in-depth texts, will be available on the e-learning site of the course, also usable by non-attending students.

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

Assessment methods

The exam is oral, organized in an interview on the topics of both modules (Forensic Psychopathology and Forensic Neuropsychology) aimed at ascertaining the acquisition of the theoretical knowledge. The evaluation criteria are: correctness and completeness of the answers, ability to critically argue on forensic issues.

International students (Erasmus program) can opt to take the exam in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Volterra V., Psichiatria forense, criminologia ed etica psichiatrica, Elsevier, Milano 2010

- Stracciari A., Bianchi A., Sartori G., Neuropsicologia forense, Il Mulino ed, 2010.

Suggestions for English alternatives of textbooks upon request