UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Cognitive Development

2122-1-F5103P003

Learning area

Typical development and educational contexts.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
• The neuroconstructivist approach to the study of cognitive development
• The development of motor, cognitive and metacognitive competences
• The development of children's ability to understand others' actions, emotions and intentions.

Applying knowledge and understanding
• Promoting cognitive development
• Critical understanding of empirical evidence about cognitive development
• Risk factors in cognitive development
• Implications of the neuroconstructivist approach to atypical development
• Application of knowledge and empirical evidence for prevention and intervention

Contents

Students will be introduced to advanced knowledge regarding the emergence and the development of the human mind. The reciprocal relations between mind, body and environment that characterize the epigenetic process will be highlighted. References to empirical evidence about cognitive development and their implications for atypical development will be made.

Detailed program

• The foundations of a new developmental science

• Promoting cognitive competences during infancy: play.

• Promoting cognitive competences during school age: learning.

• The origins of the human mind: the nativist approach and the early competences

• The neuroconstructivist approach to the study of cognitive development

• Implications of the neuroconstructivist approach: atypical development, preterm birth, early enviroment and wellbeing, early markers.

• The development of children's ability to understand others' actions, emotions and intentions

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge about the classic approaches to the study of development is required. Students lacking such basic knowledge are encouraged to ask for a list of basic references.

Teaching methods

Together with classroom lectures, the course will offer guided discussions, video presentations, and practical trainings. The material (slides and, when possible, scientific articles) is made available on the e-learning site of the course.

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

Assessment methods

The exam is written with open and multiple choice questions. Multiple choice questions provide an extensive evaluation of acquired knowledge, open questions evaluate students’ critical thinking on such knowledge. An oral interview can be requested by the student, in addition to the written exam, on all the topics of the course. In special cases, it is possible that the oral interview may be requested by the professor.The evaluation criteria are: adequacy of contents, organization and form of the answers.

Exams will take place in person, unless further COVID-19 related restrictions are imposed.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Valenza E. e Turati C. (2019). Promuovere lo sviluppo della mente. Un approccio neurocostruttivista. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Slides.

International students can take the exam in English and/or ask for an English bibliography.