



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Psychology - 2

2223-1-E2401P004-T2

Learning area

Learnin Area n.1 - KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS USEFUL TO UNDERSTAND, PROMOTE AND CHANGE INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding:

- Highlighting the development of major theories in the evolution of psychological knowledge
- Focusing on the epistemological status of psychology and its social role
- Providing a scientific and cultural background

Applying knowledge and understanding:

- Giving well-rooted and in-depth direction to the current psychological knowledge;
- Interdisciplinarity
- Recognising the relationships between different fields of psychological knowledge.

Contents

The course aims at presenting an overview of the problems related to the birth of scientific psychology, promoting a critical reflection on the theoretical, methodological and epistemological assumptions and on the social conditioning that have historically guided its development. It will focus on the origins, evolution and transformation of the main perspectives of research from the mid-nineteenth Century up to the present day, placing them in their proper

historical context and highlighting their dominant research program.

Detailed program

- The “long past” of psychology in ancient, medieval and modern thought
- The rise of experimental psychology in Germany and in other countries during the second half of the nineteenth century
- Early American psychology between structuralism and functionalism
- The phenomenological tradition and Gestalt psychology
- Psychodynamic approaches and psychoanalysis
- The Cultural-Historical perspective
- Behaviourism and reflexology
- From behaviourism to cognitive psychology.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Teaching method consists in lectures accompanied by a critical discussion with the students on illustrated topics and concepts.

Assessment methods

The exam will be carried out through a written test, divided into a part with multiple-choice questions and a part with open questions. The questions are aimed at testing the effective acquisition of the topics illustrated during the course, as well as to ascertain the ability to manage the contents of the proposed bibliography and the capability to critically deal with them.

Upon student's request, the exam can be integrated by an oral examination, on all the course topics.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

MANDATORY:

**Mecacci, L. (2008). Manuale di storia della psicologia. Firenze: Giunti (capitoli: 1, 3, 4).

Mecacci, L. (2019). Storia della psicologia. Dal Novecento a oggi. Roma-Bari: Laterza [capitolo 1; capitolo 2; capitolo 3 (paragrafi 1-6; 8); capitolo 4 (paragrafi 1-4); capitolo 5 (paragrafi 1-7); capitolo 6 (paragrafi 1-3); capitolo 7 (paragrafi 1-6)]

OPTIONAL READINGS

Danziger, K. (1995). La costruzione del soggetto. Le origini storiche della ricerca psicologica, Roma-Bari, Laterza
Cerea, A. (2021). Natura, psiche e cultura. Dal “ragazzo selvaggio” all’etnopsicoanalisi, Milano, Editrice Bibliografica, 2021.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION
