UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Action Research for Groups and Organizations

2223-2-F5106P012

Learning area

Social Psychology, economic psychology and decision-making

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Historical, philosophical and theoretical foundations of action research

- Comparison among different theoretical and methodological perspectives in action-research (quasi-experimental, inductive, participatory, and clinical approaches);
- Action research methodologies and their application

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Advanced knowledge of the process (context analysis and problem setting, planning, implementation, evaluation) and of the researcher's role
- Advanced knowledge of action research methodology
- The ability to define the research design and to plan intervention

Contents

This course aims at providing a theoretical and methodological framework for planning, implementing and evaluating action-research in various contexts of intervention. Different approaches and their diverse applications

will be presented.

Detailed program

- Epistemological, theoretical and methodological perspectives on action-research
- Advances in post-lewinian action research
- Validity criteria
- Quantitative and qualitative methodology in action research
- The role of the resercher and of the group in action research

Prerequisites

A good knowledge of the basis of Psychology (in particular of Social, Work and Organizational Psychology and of quantitative and qualititative methods) enables a more aware fruition of the course. Students lacking such basic knowledge are encourage to ask for a list of references.

Teaching methods

In addition to classroom lectures, part of the teaching takes place through the discussion of scientific articles, case studies and exercises on the course topics.

The material (slides and scientific articles) is made available on the e-learning site of the course, so that it can also be used by non-attending students.

Students who regularly attend the course can deepen the knowledge of some course topics with an essay that analyses a case-study.

Assessment methods

The exam consists of an oral test. The questions aim at ascertaining the effective acquisition of both theoretical knowledge and the ability to apply them to the analysis of a real case. The evaluation criteria are: the correctness of the answers, the ability to argue, synthesize and critically discuss a real case.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Colucci F.P., Colombo M., Montali L. (2008). *La ricerca intervento: prospettive e ambiti*. Bologna: il Mulino (cap. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8).

Kaneklin C. Piccardo C., Scaratti G. (2010). *La ricerca-azione*. Milano: Cortina (cap. 1,2,3,6,7,11,13).

Sustainable Development Goals

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS