



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Perception and Attention

2324-2-E2401P109

Learning area

1: Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Major topics in psychology of perception and attention.
- Theories and methods in the perception and attention research.
- The interaction between perception-attention

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to critically analyze results of the most recent works in attention and perception
- Ability to understand and assimilate contents of original research papers in attention and perception
- Ability to recognize the non-pathological cognitive functioning

Contents

The course aims to provide students with advanced tools to learn and study two specific groups of processes: visual perception and spatial attention. It will be discussed how these two distinct groups of processes are interlinked and the role they play in the interpretation of the world around us.

Detailed program

Research methods:

- Overview of methodology notions
- Overview of basic psychophysical notions
- How to prepare a screen representation of one's research
- How to understand whether a scientific paper is relevant to one's research without having to read it entirely
- How to structure a project/manuscript

Perception:

- The concept of illusion; visual illusions
- Psychological theories of perception;
- Perceptual organization;
- Perceptual constancies;
- The perception of space;
- Chromatic and achromatic colors, and the perception of light.

Attention:

- Classic experimental paradigms;
- Selective attention: theories and phenomena;
- Attentional capture and inattentive blindness.
- Social attention
- Divided Attention
- Attention in daily contexts

Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has acquired the contents of an introductory course in Experimental Psychology. Knowledge of the English language is also required.

Teaching methods

The course will consist of lectures followed by moments of discussion with the students where specific experiments will be analyzed and discussed.

During the course some works in English will be presented and commented in order to accustom students to the reading of original literature.

Students attending the lessons on a regular basis (for instance, at least once a week) will have the chance to present and discuss a paper of their choice during a lesson (Journal club style).

Assessment methods

The exam consists of a multiple choice test including 20 questions which aims to verify the acquisition of basic notions. Each correct answer will be scored 1 point. Each omitted or incorrect answer will be scored 0 points.

In addition, an oral presentation is required to verifying the ability to critically combine notions and research methodologies in visual perception and attention. The oral test will be evaluated from 0 to 10 points, according to the following criteria:

- Correctness and completeness of contents (0-2)
- Exposition clarity (0-2)
- Appropriateness of the language (0-2)
- Analysis of critical aspects (0-2)
- Ability to compare content with similar contents. (0-2).

For the oral exam the student can choose between one of the following options:

1. journal club style presentation of a paper (published not prior to 2008) during class;
2. writing a research project based on a paper chosen by the student (published not prior to 2008).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides from the lessons

Other reference books and articles on the topics of the course will be published on the course's e-learning website before the start of classes.

Psicologia generale

6/Ed. Sandra K. Ciccarelli - J. Noland White – a cura di Paola Ricciardelli, Cristina Iani -Cap 3-4

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY
