



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Psychology

2324-1-E2401P004

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 knowledge in psychology

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 development of human sciences between 700 and 800
- 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
- Phenomenological approach to psychiatry
- 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 consists of a part with multiple-choice questions and a part with a short essay on a given question. 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

- 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 (capitoli: 1; 2; 3 (paragrafi 1-6; 8); 4 (paragrafi 1-4); 5 (paragrafi 1-7); 6 (paragrafi 1-3); 7 (paragrafi 1-6; 9).

- Cerea, A. (2021). Natura, psiche e cultura. Dal "ragazzo selvaggio" all'etnopsicoanalisi, Milano: Editrice Bibliografica (cap. 1, pp. 15-40)
- Danziger, K. (1995). La costruzione del soggetto. Le origini storiche della ricerca psicologica. Roma-Bari: Laterza.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
