UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Perception and Attention

2425-2-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 innattentional blindness.
• Social attention
• Diveded 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

Course with different teaching methods:

- 14 2-hour lessons held in presence mode.
- 1 2-hour lesson carried out remotely
- 10 lessons of 2 hours carried out in interactive mode: cooperative learning activities
- 3 lessons of 2 hours of activities supervised by the teacher: seminars, exhibitions, guided tours

Assessment methods

The exam consists in a multiple choice test with a mandatory oral presentation.
The multiple choice test includes 22 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.

The mandatory oral presentation is requirred 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 2015) during class;
2. writing a research project based on a paper chosen by the student (published not prior to 2015).

The final mark will be obtained from the sum of the marks in the two tests.
There are no interim tests.

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