



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Developmental Psychology

2425-3-E1901R081

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#### Course title

Developmental Psychology

#### Topics and course structure

The course aims to explore some topics in developmental psychology with a focus on the period 0-6 years. The main developmental processes of perceptual, motor, communication, cognitive, and social-emotional skills in the early years of life will be addressed and discussed. Special interest will be given to the development of intersubjectivity and creative thinking. Topics will be covered in the dialogue between classical theoretical approaches and more recent developments. Finally, different ways of observing and promoting the child's competencies in different developmental contexts, with particular reference to early childhood education services, will be presented and discussed.

#### Objectives

This course, with constant and participatory attendance at lectures and the Laboratory associated with the course, is intended to stimulate a critical approach to the discipline and reflection on the implications and possibilities that the use of acquired knowledge and skills may have on the promotion of development in educational contexts. Specifically, it is intended to promote the following learnings, in terms of knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge of the psychological competencies of the child in the 0-6 year period; knowledge of developmental processes.
- Ability to relate and critically compare different theoretical and methodological approaches.
- Ability to apply the acquired knowledge to phenomena observed in family and non-family contexts of

growth, in order to design educational paths also making use of the skills gained in the interdisciplinary workshops related to this course.

## **Methodologies**

The course includes frontal lectures (25%) and interactive didactics (75%) as moments of participatory lectures, exercises with the support of various educational materials (videos, images, educational documentation, etc.).

During classroom work, role playing, dialogue, discussion and individual, pair and small group exercises will be used to promote the ability to read the potential of expressive techniques in psychological development and the promotion of well-being and creativity in educational and training contexts.

Each lesson will include deliverable and interactive moments: part of the lesson will be frontal didactics, to introduce content on which to then lead discussions and/or exercises. Some lessons will have a greater percentage of frontal didactics, always maintaining, in each of them, a part of participatory reflection on the topics addressed, also with the help of video, audio etc. Other lectures will involve more interactive involvement of students in the form of exercises, discussions and/or small group activities supervised by the lecturer.

Teaching activities will take place in-person and some lectures or parts of lectures (especially frontal lessons) will be recorded and uploaded to the platform.

Teaching materials will be uploaded to the platform.

## **Online and offline teaching materials**

Lecture slides (available on the course webpage)

Articles (both for individual study and as practice material)

Web forums

## **Programme and references**

Murray, L. (2015), *Le prime relazioni del bambino. Dalla nascita a due anni, i legami fondamentali per lo sviluppo*, R. Cortina, Milano.

Grazzani, I. (2014), *Psicologia dello sviluppo emotivo*, Nuova Edizione. Il Mulino, Bologna (capitoli 3, 4, 5).

Harris, P.L. (2023), *Psicologia del bambino. Le dodici grandi domande*. Raffaello Cortina.

One text of your choice from a list that will be published in this one at the beginning of the course.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

## **Assessment methods**

The exam is written, with a closed-question part and an open-question part.

The test specifically evaluates:

relevance of the content presented

richness/articulation of the content displayed

internal consistency of concepts and arguments  
correctness of concepts illustrated and discussed  
explicit references to the texts studied  
correctness of terminology, spelling and syntax  
capacity for critical reflection and personal reworking of content

## **Office hours**

Student reception times are announced monthly, on Prof. Farina's webpage.

## **Programme validity**

Two academic years

## **Course tutors and assistants**

Barbara Girani De Marco

Chiara Deprà

Letizia Della Zoppa

Marta Sala

Elena Della Malva

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION

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