UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Clinical Community Psychology

2526-2-E1901R144

Course title

Clinical and Community Psychology

Topics and course structure

The Community Clinical Psychology course deals with the application of the clinical-psychological approach to community contexts. The term "community" is understood here in a dual sense: a) on the one hand, it refers to institutions operating in the social sphere (e.g., educational services for children and families, residential communities, temporary reception centers, residential facilities, etc.); b) on the other hand, it has a broader meaning referring to a "socio-cultural group" characterized by peculiar dynamics.

The course aims to describe and explain individual and collective psychological processes in contexts characterized by poverty, social suffering, political and military violence, with reference to the various related intervention modalities. This will be done from the perspective of critical and radical theories, post-colonial thought, and liberation theories, focusing specifically on interpreting contexts and the multicultural variables present within them. The monographic section will present some models of transcultural psychological intervention, with particular attention to radical feminist, anti-psychiatric, and liberation psychology approaches, including the psychology of the oppressed.

Objectives

Learning Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

Students will acquire basic knowledge of the main theoretical frameworks in clinical psychology and related intervention modalities, enabling them to understand and integrate these within effective educational-formative planning aimed at community and multicultural contexts.

Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding
Students will acquire the fundamental skills to apply essential tools and conceptual categories derived from clinical psychology to educational-formative planning for community and multicultural contexts. Specifically, basic criteria will be provided for:
a) analyzing various contexts and identifying the different figures operating within them;
b) recognizing and utilizing operational tools useful for designing educational-formative interventions aimed at individuals, families, and social groups in community and multicultural contexts.

Methodologies

75% of the lessons will be of an expository nature, with 25% Interactive Teaching dedicated to in-class discussions, case presentations, group work, and exercises, thematic workshops held by national and international experts.

Teaching takes place in the classroom and is conducted in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

slides;

Video-recorded lessons;

Students are invited to join the course's private Facebook group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/534875166626926

Programme and references

1\Definition of community and community care in daily life

Foucault and the historical/genealogical approach in the history of madness

Franco Basaglia's legacy in social psychiatry

Clinical psychology in the community from an anticolonial perspective

Critical clinic applied to the community

Critical and postcolonial studies

Gender studies and intersectionality

Migration and community work

Psychology of trauma and resilience

Systemic-narrative approach and community clinical work

Liberation psychology

Bibliography

Ignacio Martin-Baró 2018. Psicologia della Liberazione [Psychology of Liberation]. Ed. Bordeaux.

Choose one book from the following:
Brian Barber no way but forward. Life Stories of Three Families in the Gaza Strip
Samah Jabr 2019. Dietro i Fronti. Cronache di una psichiatra psicoterapeuta sotto occupazione [Behind the Fronts. Chronicles of a Psychiatrist Psychotherapist under Occupation]. Rome, Sensibili alle foglie.
Samah Jabr 2021. Sumud. Resistere all'oppressione [Sumud. Resisting Oppression]. Sensibili alle foglie.

bell hooks, Maria Nadotti 2020. Elogio del margine, scrivere al buio [Praise of the Margin, Writing in the Dark]. Edizioni Tamu.

Erasmus students should contact the teacher to select an alternative textbook in English

Students who choose to take the course as part of their 'biennalizzazione' track must contact the instructor in advance to discuss and agree upon an alternative bibliography.

Assessment methods

The final exam is designed to assess—consistent with the learning objectives—the knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of Community Clinical Psychology and their application.

The exam will last 1 hour.

Final Exam Details
The final exam for both attending and non-attending students consists of a written test (1 open question and 5 closed questions, 3 short-answer definitions), which can optionally be supplemented by an oral examination at the student's discretion. The written test is passed if the student achieves a score of at least 18/30. It's not possible to access the optional oral examination if the written test has not been passed. The written test is valid for one academic year; after this period, if the exam is not officially registered, the written test must be retaken. The optional oral examination can only be taken during the same exam session in which the written test was taken.

Students may replace the written test with an essay produced at the end of the course, choosing, if deemed necessary, course bibliography or an alternative bibliography agreed upon with the instructor. Essays are exclusively permitted for small groups (no fewer than 3 and no more than 8 students per group).

The exam will cover topics present in the bibliography and teaching materials available on the e-learning platform.

The criteria used to evaluate the exam will be:
a) The relevance of the answers to the questions posed in the written test and any oral examination.
b) The ability to establish relevant connections between the various course topics.
c) The precision and correctness (including linguistic and formal aspects) of the exposition.
d) The ability to critically re-elaborate acquired knowledge and apply it in clinical-educational community and transcultural contexts.

Written Test Structure:

3 sections:

Section 1: 5 multiple-choice questions (10 points)

Section 2: 3 short-answer definition questions (10 points)

Section 3: 1 open question (10 points)

Evaluation Ranges
Low Range (0-17/30): Insufficient

Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates limited and fragmented knowledge of the topics covered, with difficulty understanding key concepts of community clinical psychology.

Ability to Apply Knowledge: Inability to apply theoretical concepts to concrete cases or contexts.

Autonomy of Judgment: Lack of critical thinking and autonomous evaluation; dependence on information provided by the instructor.

Communication Skills: Poor oral/written expression; technical language absent or used inappropriately.

Learning Ability: Limited ability to re-elaborate knowledge and connect topics; poor autonomy in self-study.

Middle Range (18-24/30): Sufficient - Good

Knowledge and Understanding: The student possesses a general knowledge of the main topics of the discipline, although with some uncertainty or gaps in specific concepts.

Ability to Apply Knowledge: Discrete ability to apply acquired knowledge to simple situations, but with difficulty in addressing complex problems.

Autonomy of Judgment: Partial autonomy in formulating critical evaluations, often limited to re-elaborations of known information.

Communication Skills: Good expository clarity, with acceptable use of technical language, though not always rigorous.

Learning Ability: The student demonstrates a sufficient ability to learn and connect topics, but requires support in autonomous study.

High Range (25-30/30): Distinguished - Excellent

Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates in-depth and well-structured knowledge of the topics covered, mastering the complexity of community clinical psychology.

Ability to Apply Knowledge: High ability to critically and autonomously apply theoretical knowledge to complex situations, case studies, and practical contexts.

Autonomy of Judgment: Excellent critical ability, autonomy in evaluating theories and data, demonstrating originality and problem-solving skills.

Communication Skills: Precise and appropriate technical language; clear, fluent, and rigorous exposition in both oral and written forms.

Learning Ability: The student shows excellent ability in autonomous learning, knowledge integration, and interdisciplinary connections.

Office hours

On request.

Programme validity

Course tutors and assistants

Tutor:

Chiara Fiscone
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Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS