



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Psicologia Generale 2 - 1

2526-2-E2401P007-T1

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#### Learning area

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

#### Learning objectives

##### Knowledge and Understanding

- Basic knowledge of the main theories and research areas in the psychology of thinking and language.
- Theories and recent experimental findings on the cognitive processes involved in the development of concepts, beliefs, opinions, and convictions, in problem solving, and in decision making, both individual and group-based.

##### Applying Knowledge and Understanding

- Practice of critical and argumentative thinking through analytical discussion of theories and research presented.
- Analysis of thought processes involved in real-life individual behavior.
- Application of simple quantitative psychological models.
- Use of basic probabilistic and inferential tools.
- Pragmatic analysis of texts, discourse, and problems.

##### Making Judgements

Students are encouraged to critically compare different theoretical perspectives and experimental approaches, developing critical thinking and evaluative independence in the analysis of data and scientific research. Through exercises, group work, and case study analysis, the autonomous application of acquired knowledge is fostered. Assessment methods include tasks that require analytical, synthetic, and problem-solving skills, thus supporting the

development of informed and conscious judgement.

### **Communication Skills**

The course promotes the development of communication and argumentative skills through the discussion of exercises and theoretical aspects. The exam includes open-ended questions that require the use of appropriate language and the ability to convey the course content clearly and coherently.

### **Learning Skills**

The course provides a solid foundation in the topics covered, enabling students to independently pursue further learning in related, more advanced areas.

## **Contents**

Students will be introduced to theoretical and experimental issues on psychology of reasoning, problem solving, decision making, language and communication.

## **Detailed program**

### **LECTURES**

#### Language

- you will be studying language comprehension and production by illustrating the major psycholinguistic models relating to the recognition of words and sentence comprehension.
- the theory of conversational implicature by Grice.

#### Thinking and reasoning

- concept formation and categorization
- deductive reasoning
- probabilistic reasoning and decision making
- problem solving

It will be considered some of the key issues of psychological research on thought, such as:

- the competence of the human cognitive system and the question of "bounded rationality";
- errors and biases in probabilistic, deductive reasoning and in decision making;
- the function of the context and content in reasoning
- the problem forming and the nature of cognitive processes underlying insight and non-insight problem-solving;
- the effects on the thought of the psychorhetorical dimension of the discourse.

some issues in the current debate on the pragmatic dimension of thought will be also addressed, such as:

- the argumentative function of thought, the interactional intelligence and the communicative heuristics.

different types of communications will be considered as instances:

- the explanation;
- the vacuous discourse;
- the scientific discourse;
- the demonstrative discourse.

## **Prerequisites**

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures, discussions, experiments.

*Although this course is held in Italian, Erasmus students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.*

## **Assessment methods**

Open questions and oral examination on topics covered in class and in the examination texts.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Mosconi G.(1997). *Discorso e Pensiero*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Levinson S.T.C. (1985). *La pragmatica*. Bologna: Il Mulino (cap. III).

Materiali per il corso di Psicologia generale 2 (Prof.ssa Laura Macchi)-Corso di Laurea in Scienze e Tecniche Psicologiche, Università Milano-Bicocca. Ed. Il Mulino (2020).

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

QUALITY EDUCATION

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