



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Perception and Attention

2526-2-E2401P109

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#### 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

##### Making Judgments

Students will develop the ability to autonomously integrate methodological and theoretical skills in the field of perception and attention, applying them to critically evaluate previous studies and to propose new research projects within the various subfields of the discipline.

Particular emphasis will be placed on analyzing specific methodological challenges related to the investigative techniques used in the study of attentional and perceptual processes.

Students will also develop the ability to reorganize acquired knowledge to generate innovative and original solutions, grounded in empirical data and a critical understanding of the complexities that characterize the study of attention and perception. These objectives will be achieved through lectures and cooperative learning activities.

## **Communication Skills**

Students will develop communication skills that enable effective interaction with professionals from diverse cultural and scientific backgrounds. Through presentations, they will learn to present scientific findings in the field of attention and perception, using specialized language and the discipline's specific terminology.

In addition, collaborative skills will be strengthened, with particular focus on teamwork through cooperative learning activities.

## **Learning Skills**

The course will support the acquisition of the ability to stay updated on models and theories related to perception and attention. Students will be guided in understanding course content through structured lectures.

## **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 inattention blindness.
- Social attention
- Divided 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.
- 12-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 20 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 required 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

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