

COURSE SYLLABUS

Research Methods and Assessment for The Life Cycle

2526-2-E2004P039

Learning area

2: Psychosocial aspects underlying communication.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Mechanisms of cognitive, affective and socio-emotional development in the life cycle.
- Main data collection techniques for assessing perceptual, cognitive, affective and socio-emotional development.
- Typical and atypical ageing.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

- Ability to link theoretical aspects and practical applications.
- Acquisition of the necessary skills to design and conduct a research project.
- Critical choice of a research methodology, assessing its limitations and potential.
- Ability to effectively present a research and intervention project.

Autonomy of judgement

- Development of the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise new and complex ideas (also in relation to emerging global issues) both through the presentation of scientific articles and through group discussions.

Communication skills

- Development of the ability to clearly and consciously communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to specialist and non-specialist interlocutors and in different educational-occupational contexts.
- Development of the ability to listen actively, negotiate and work in groups, including interdisciplinary groups, as well as to understand and critically analyse different points of view.

Ability to learn

- Development of the ability to pursue one's own study path independently, strengthened by a greater critical awareness and a renewed theoretical-conceptual and methodological sensitivity.

Contents

The course is made of two main modules.

The first module focuses on early and late development, discussing the main theories and aspects of both cognitive and socio-emotional development.

The second module deals with aging, both typical and atypical, and the lines of intervention.

Detailed program

- Cognitive, affective and social development in infancy and childhood
- Behavioural and physiological measure to study perception in preverbal infants
- Social relationships and contexts in development
- Social deprivation
- The aging brain: typical and pathological aging
- Alzheimer and Parkinson: evaluation and interventions
- Methodological and statistical aspects in the study of aging
- Intelligence and memory in aging

Students' presentations of a topic of interest.

Prerequisites

None in particular, but knowledge of the English will help the student during the presentation of videos (only in English).

Teaching methods

Teaching methods include lectures (90%) and student presentations (10%). The slides and some videos of the course will be made available on the e-learning site so that non-attending students can also benefit from them.

All attending students will have the opportunity to present an in-depth paper, chosen by the student, on a topic covered during the course. The presentation will take place in the classroom, under the supervision of the lecturer.

It is also specified that the hours of organised teaching activities (lectures) cover 40 hours; the hours of interactive teaching (presentations) cover the remaining 12 hours.

Finally, it is specified that this course is intended to be 100% face-to-face. No remote lecture hours will be recorded or delivered.

Assessment methods

The exam is written and consists of 40 multiple-choice questions and 2 open questions, which needs to be completed within 90 minutes. The multiple choice questions will evaluate the student's knowledge of the topics discussed throughout the course. The essays will evaluate the ability of the student to discuss a specific topic and make connections among topics. The answers to the short essays will be evaluated in terms of accuracy of response, clarity, synthesis, and critical abilities.

The written exam can be integrated by an oral exam, which will allow the student to earn a maximum of 3 points to be added to the points achieved at the written exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Macchi Cassia, V. & Quadrelli, E. (2023). *Nati per apprendere*. Roma: Carocci.
- De Beni, R. & Borella, E. (2015). *Psicologia dell'invecchiamento e della longevità*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

Potential new handbooks will be communicated before the beginning of the course on e-learning.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
