UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professional Ethics

2526-1-F5112P009

Learning area

Fundamental specialized knowledge

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge of the rules of the Psychologists' Code of Ethics, the principles underpinning these rules, and the legal goods they pursue and protect.
Basic legal regulations and theoretical notions of deontology, as well as civil and criminal legislation concerning the psychology profession.
Knowledge of the historical background concerning the establishment of the psychology profession and the approval and subsequent revisions of the code of ethics for Italian psychologists

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Moving from rote learning to deontological thinking based on one's specific competencies and an adequate evaluation of the operational context's legal rules.
Proper management of the professional relationship, especially the triadic relationship between the client, the professionals, and the service subject.

- Making judgements
  Through rigorous analysis and classroom discussion of the ethical aspects of various cases, students cultivate the capacity to critically evaluate the relationship between professional practice and the principles of the code of ethics. Group work and simulations are employed to encourage independent judgement and reflective thinking about the course content.
- Communication skills

The course has been designed to promote the development of communication and argumentation skills through classroom discussion and group work. The execution of these activities necessitates the employment of suitable specialist language and the capacity to convey disciplinary content with efficacy.

- Learning skills
  The course provides the conceptual foundations of professional ethics, which can be further explored through specialisation courses and professional practice.

Contents

This course aims to illustrate the meaning and function of the Code of Ethics by exploring the main deontological rules that guide psychologists in managing their relationships with clients and the professional community.
It describes how non-compliance with legal requirements can lead to professional liability in disciplinary, civil and criminal matters.
It examines the hypotheses of cause for departure from the ethical rule. These include the consent of the person entitled, the performance of a duty, and the legitimate exercise of a right and necessity.
In addition, the course explores the issue of social communication by professionals, its impact on society and the potential risks and benefits.
Students are required to analyse problems that arise in professional activities and to propose deontological and/or legally sound solutions.

Detailed program

Ethics, Deontology and Law
Psychology as a profession
Professional autonomy
Protection of rights, especially of vulnerable persons
The contract
Professional Responsibility
Informed consent
Professional secrecy
Reporting and Duty to Report
The digital communication challenge for psychologists

Prerequisites

None required.

Teaching methods

During every lessons, it is a first part (about 50 percent) of lectures, reading of scientific articles, presentation of papers to the class and a second part which consists in group work, simulations.

Assessment methods

Assessment will be carried out in various ways, including writing essays, presenting scientific articles, and participating in group work and organised simulations.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Detailed information about the teaching materials will be published on the course's e-learning page.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS