



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Maltreatment and Abuse: Medico-Legal and Criminological Aspects

2526-3-I0102D118

---

#### Aims

##### **Knowledge and understanding**

The student will acquire a thorough knowledge of the different types of violence, including the ecological model, definitions and the problem dimension. He/she will be able to understand the legal framework of reference and the theoretical basis of the medico-legal approach in cases of suspected ill-treatment and abuse, as well as the associated psychological and clinical signs, such as shaken baby syndrome, battered baby syndrome and female genital mutilations.

##### **Applied knowledge and understanding**

The student will be able to apply the acquired knowledge in the analysis of clinical cases, correctly interpreting the signs of ill-treatment and abuse, and to use the medico-legal approach for the management and assessment of suspected child abuse.

##### **Autonomy of judgement**

The student will develop the ability to critically evaluate situations of suspected maltreatment and abuse, distinguishing between different types of violence and interpreting clinical and psychological signs independently, also in the light of legal regulations.

##### **Communicative skills**

The student will be able to effectively communicate information about the signs of maltreatment and abuse, medical-legal procedures and psychological implications, adapting the language to different interlocutors, including health, legal and family professionals.

##### **Learning skills**

The student will develop the necessary skills to independently explore issues related to child abuse, keeping up to date with legislation, intervention methodologies and the latest scientific evidence in the field of prevention and management of child maltreatment and abuse.

## **Contents**

Medico-legal and criminologic aspects of abuse and neglect.

## **Detailed program**

Violence is a complex problem and it is increasing above all on women and girls and it is necessary to see it in order to protect the weakest subjects. From a judicial fact, today it has become a health and more generally a social problem, thus determining the need to train health workers to the awareness of violence in society, acquiring knowledge for the identification of abuse in its various forms, recognizing the early signs and events, mainly to prepare the appropriate and necessary therapeutic measures, to activate a social intervention and to possibly activate the judicial agencies.

## **Prerequisites**

Registration for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year course

## **Teaching form**

Face-to-face classroom: Lectures in delivering type in Italian language and presentations of forensic cases (clinical and judiciary), in the e-learning page some study materials will be uploaded to the course web page.

In case of emergency situations (natural disasters, weather warnings (deluge, floods), uprisings, pandemics, etc.) online teaching-classroom with synchronous lectures online on the Webex platform.

## **Textbook and teaching resource**

Italian Court Judgments, guidelines and other educational material uploaded on the e-learning website

Liotti G. e Farina B. Sviluppi Traumatici. (2011) Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano.

Romito P. e Melato M. La violenza sulle donne e sui minori. (2013) Carocci Faber Editore, Roma.

Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS) Quaderni di Sanità Pubblica. Violenza e salute nel mondo. Rapporto dell'Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (parte prima), CIS Editore, Milano, 2002

Merzagora I. Introduzione alla Criminologia. (2023) Cortina Editore.

AAVV Amore senza lividi. Storie di guerriero senza paura. (2021) Edizioni San Gennaro.

## **Semester**

2<sup>nd</sup> semester

**Assessment method**

written exam (multiple choice quiz)

**Office hours**

Face-to-face or online via webex by appointment arranged via e-mail.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES

---