UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology

2526-1-H4602D004

Aims

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:
• Know and describe the roots of psychology and its main theoretical currents.
• Know the basic mechanisms of learning and behavior by applying them to the health context.
• Know and describe attachment styles and interpersonal motivational systems.
• Recognize relational dynamics, in particular empathy and emotional intelligence, in the doctor-patient relationship.
• Know and apply the main communication and active listening techniques.

Contents

The course aims to provide students with the essential theoretical knowledge derived from basic science and tools necessary for future study of the degree course in Dentistry.

Detailed program

• Introduction to the biological and philosophical roots of psychology.
• The main currents of psychology and the associated theories (dynamics, behaviorism, cognitivism, humanities).
• Analysis of the basic processes of learning and behavior and their practical application to the healthcare context.
• The development of self and other consciousness (theory of mind).
• The attachment theory and its application in the healthcare context.
• Interpersonal motivational systems (IMS): a theoretical model for reading relationships.
• Doctor-patient relationship: internal processes and relational dynamics involved in the helping professions (empathy and emotional intelligence).

• The communication theories.
• Communication techniques and active listening: theory and practice.

Prerequisites

In order to standardize the basic knowledge of the class, the School of Medicine organizes lectures and tutorials in physics and chemistry preliminary to the course.

Teaching form

Frontal lessons will be integrated with student-centred teaching methods such as flipped classroom, team-based learning, and role play.

Textbook and teaching resource

Educational handouts provided by the teacher

Motivi e significati dell’agire interpersonale, Liotti, G., Ardovini, C.; in Liotti, G., Monticelli, F. (2008), I sistemi motivazionali nel dialogo clinico, (pp.3-23), Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore.

Porges, S. W., (2014) La teoria polivagale. Fondamenti neurofisiologici delle emozioni,dell'attaccamento, della comunicazione e dell'autoregolazione, (capp. I, III), Giovanni Fioriti Editore.

Wilhelm, K., Tietze, T., (2016). Difficult doctor–patient interactions. Applying principles of attachment-based care. Medicine Today17(1-2):36-44.

Semester

Second semester 2025-2026

Assessment method

No ongoing tests

The evaluation will consist of a written test that will be used to ascertain the level of knowledge and ability to understand the topics covered during the course and to be able to solve problems.

Therefore the student will have to answer:
• 5 Single-answer questions with 4 answer options, of which only one is correct to verify the content knowledge.
• 1 short open question about specific theoretical definition to verify the students' knowledge and their ability to use

a specialized language.
• 3 open questions to check the deep topics' understanding and the ability to create conceptual connections.

Office hours

Friday 14-16

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY