



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Psicopatologia Generale - 1

2627-3-E2401P103-T1

Learning area

Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Theories and methods in psychopathology;
- Normality and abnormality in psychological functioning;
- Clinical diagnosis and the main contemporary nosographic systems;
- Main etiological theories of psychopathology and the bio-psycho-social model;
- Therapeutical interventions in psychopathology.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Recognize the main features of pathological functioning in cognitions, emotions and behaviour;
- Collect a full clinical history;
- Formulate diagnostic hypotheses based on a case study.

Autonomy of judgement

Through classroom exercises (such as discussing clinical cases in small groups and watching videos of clinical interviews conducted by experienced professionals), students develop the ability to independently formulate hypotheses about the clinical material presented, reflect in terms of differential diagnosis, and identify the most appropriate diagnostic hypothesis. The exam format, which includes an open-ended question, encourages independent judgment and critical thinking.

Communication skills

The course promotes the development of communication skills through classroom discussion of clinical cases, stimulating the ability to argue diagnostic hypotheses and the underlying clinical reasoning. The exam includes an

open-ended question that requires the use of appropriate technical language and the ability to convey the acquired content clearly and coherently, both in writing and through an oral interview.

Learning skills

The course provides theoretical and practical foundations that allow students to independently continue their study of clinical pictures across the entire psychopathological spectrum. Videos and in-depth materials, made available on the course's e-learning page, allow students to develop an active and independent study methodology.

Contents

The course aims at introducing students to essential elements in general psychopathology with special emphasis on descriptive psychopathology.

In the first part of the course the principal theoretical models in psychopathology will be discussed, focusing in particular on current descriptive approaches.

Detailed program

- Normality and pathology;
- Abnormal psychology;
- Nosographic classification;
- Psychopathology of thought, perception, language, emotions and behavior;
- Main psychopathological domains: mood disorders, psychotic disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, event-related disorders, somatoform disorders, substance use disorders, sexual dysfunctions, paraphilias, gender dysphoria;
- Assessment of psychopathology.

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching methods

The course is divided into didactic delivery (lectures) and interactive teaching. With regard to the latter, the planned modes include: watching films, role-playing, discussion of clinical cases, and optional exercises offered on the elearning platform.

About 85% of the total number of hours will be delivered as face-to-face lectures.

The remaining 15% of the total hours will include presentations of clinical cases to be discussed in plenary or small groups, viewing video interviews with fictitious patients, role playing (practical exercises on the use of clinical interviews). Such applied lectures are essential for acquiring practical skills for gathering anamnestic information and learning to reason in terms of differential diagnosis.

Assessment methods

Learning will be assessed through a written test consisting of a first part with multiple-choice questions (30 questions with four answer options) aimed at testing specific knowledge of the theoretical aspects covered in the course, and a second part with open-ended questions on the course topics.

Passing the written test will give access to an optional oral test in which, in addition to the knowledge acquired, mastery of the specific technical language of the discipline will be assessed. The interview will cover all the topics of the course.

The assessment of learning will take into account the following elements:

- acquisition and mastery of the theoretical content of the course;
- ability to select and correctly apply the knowledge acquired to formulate a diagnostic hypothesis based on a clinical case;
- ability to interpret and critically discuss the nosographic classification criteria for mental illnesses;
- clarity of presentation and proper use of the specific language of the discipline.

The final grade is determined by the overall score obtained across the different components of the examination, according to the following grading scale:

18: Barely satisfactory knowledge, with only minimal interpretative and application skills.

19–22: Satisfactory knowledge of the fundamental content, with some uncertainty in its application.

23–26: Fair to good knowledge, with generally sound application skills despite some inaccuracies.

27–30: Solid knowledge, good mastery of the subject matter, and well-developed critical thinking skills.

30 with honours (30 cum laude): Comprehensive and fully satisfactory knowledge, excellent mastery of the subject matter, and outstanding precision and appropriateness of academic language.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Hooley, J.M., Nock, M.K., 2025, *Psicopatologia e psicologia clinica*, 19° edizione. Pearson, Milano. ISBN 9788891938206

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
