UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Forensic Psychology

2627-3-E2401P026

Learning area

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS USEFUL TO UNDERSTAND AND CHANGE THE RELATIONS AMONG INDIVIDUALS AND THE PSYCHOSOCIAL PROCESSES UNDERLYING GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

· The dialogue between law and psychology

· Theoretical bases and fields of study

· Fields and forms of intervention

· New perspectives

Applying knowledge and understanding

· The ability to dialogue with other disciplines

· The ability to apply the models in natural settings

Making judgments
Students are encouraged to compare the content of the lectures with current events, news related to legal developments, and operational practices in the professional field. Cases are brought to class either by the participants themselves or provided by the professor. These cases are then discussed and reviewed.

Communication skills
The interdisciplinary nature of the course primarily fosters the development of language skills, with particular focus on legal terminology. These skills are further enhanced through active dialogue with various professionals (lawyers, judges, prison staff) who regularly participate in the lectures, as well as through the viewing of video materials. Finally, these skills are directly tested through role-play activities conducted during the practical sessions.

Learning skills
The course provides both theoretical and practical foundations that enable participants to independently engage with in-depth materials and read legal texts. The introduction to the subject also offers appropriate guidance for choosing the most suitable educational paths for further studies in forensic psychology. The knowledge acquired also allows students to competently navigate different applied contexts, such as internships that directly or indirectly deal with psycho-legal objects.

Contents

Students are introduced to theoretical and professional issues emerging when operating as psychologist in juridical setting. particular attention is devoted to the contexts where minors and vulnerable victims are involved

Detailed program

LECTURES

· Forensic Psychology: theoretical perspectives and applications

· Psychology and Law;

· Psychology and Justice;

· Psychologists in the legal system;

· Psychologists in the courtroom;

· The peculiarities of the psychological work in the legal setting;

· The fields of intervention for minor protection;

· The prison psychology.

LAB

Psychology in the Court

Prerequisites

Nothing specific. A good knowledge of the basis of Psychology enables a more aware use of the course contents.

Teaching methods

The lessons predominantly include a part where concepts are presented (lecture-based mode) and a moment of interaction with the participants (interactive mode). In the context of the Lab, active participation methodologies and meetings with judges and lawyers (interactive mode) will be used to facilitate the development of the ability to dialogue with other disciplines.

The teaching includes lectures and laboratory activities:

- 3 lessons of 2 hours conducted in lecture-based mode;
- 18 lessons of 2 hours conducted in interactive mode;
- 2 hours of activities supervised by the tutor of the Lab.;
- 4-hour laboratory activities conducted in interactive mode;
- 5 laboratory activities of 2 hours conducted in interactive mode;

All activities are conducted in person.

The material used in class is made available on the course's e-learning site, accessible to both attending and non-attending students.

All students, both attending and non-attending, will personalize their preparation through guided elective in-depth studies.

Attending students are those who participate in the workshop.

Non-attending students will work independently on a judicial case.

Assessment methods

The assessment of learning will be carried out through an oral exam aimed at verifying the achievement of the previously outlined objectives. The oral exam consists of a discussion on the topics covered in the lessons, on the exam texts including an in-depth analysis of a topic not covered in class, and on the content of the laboratory activity or the judicial case.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

· accuracy and completeness of knowledge
· language proficiency
· understanding of the distinctive features of the discipline
· ability to reflect on the issues of interdisciplinarity

The final grade reflects the score obtained in the oral exam, according to the following scale:

18: barely sufficient knowledge, minimal applied and interpretive skills;
19-22: sufficient knowledge of the core content, limited ability to elaborate and connect the topics covered, with some uncertainty in application;
23-26: good knowledge, moderate ability to connect the topics covered and sound applied skills with occasional inaccuracies;
27-30: solid knowledge, good command of the content and critical thinking, good command of technical language;
30 cum laude: fully adequate and thorough knowledge, complete mastery, excellent command of technical

language.

There are no ongoing assessments.

Erasmus students may contact the professor to arrange the possibility of taking the exam in English but course material is not available in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The programme includes

· the collective volume curated by the professor

· an in-depth topic to be chosen among a list provided on the e-learning website

· lab attendance

Those who cannot attend the lab are requested to complete the programme with a specially crafted fascicle, which is available on the e-learning website

Detailed information will be published on the e-learning page associated to the course

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS