



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ragionamento Clinico e Personalità Patologica

2627-3-E2401P146

Learning area

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

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- * Clinical psychology and personality pathology
- * Personality and personality pathology
- * Diagnostic models of personality pathology
- * Personality pathology in the DSM: the categorical diagnostic model and the alternative diagnostic model

Applying knowledge and understanding

- * Identifying the core features of personality pathology
- * Identifying specific personality disorders
- * Critical analysis of the scientific literature on personality pathology

Making Judgements

In-class discussions of clinical cases foster critical thinking and the capacity to formulate diagnostic hypotheses.

Communication Skills

The course supports the development of communication skills through class discussions on theoretical, clinical and empirical materials related to several topics. The course promotes also the ability to clearly and coherently present complex psychological concepts.

Learning Skills

Through guided reading of scientific papers and theoretical-clinical materials, the course provides useful tools for independently continuing the study of diagnostic and explanatory models of pathological personality. The resources made available on the e-learning platform support flexible and independent study, preparing students to autonomously pursue further or more specialized training activities in the field of clinical psychology

Contents

The course aims at providing theoretical, methodological, and clinical elements related to personality and personality pathology development.

Several aspects of personality pathology will be examined, according to both psychological theories and empirical studies.

Selected topics covered in the "General Psychopathology" course (diagnostic criteria for personality disorders) will be revisited. These topics will be further developed, with particular emphasis on the study of the principal diagnostic models of pathological personality, an advanced understanding of the scientific debate between categorical and dimensional approaches to personality pathology, and a comprehensive analysis of the specific forms of personality pathological manifestations in each disorder.

Detailed program

- Personality and personality pathology
- Clinical and diagnostic models of personality pathology
- The DSM-5 approach to personality disorders: official classification and the alternative model for personality disorders
- Assessment of personality disorders

Prerequisites

Since scientific literature in English will be presented, it is recommended that students have already taken the Advanced English exam (Second year).

Teaching methods

Teaching activity: In-person lectures

The teaching activity will be structured as follows:

- Approximately 46 hours of frontal lessons
- Approximately 10 hours of interactive teaching (discussion on scientific papers and clinical cases).

The course material (slides and scientific papers) will be made available on the e-learning web site, so that also non-attending students can use it.

Assessment methods

The exam will mainly verify the following topics:

- main features of personality
- main features of pathological personality
- personality disorders
- DSM-5 criteria for diagnosing personality disorders
- diagnostic instruments for personality disorders

The exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and one open question on the course topics. The multiple-choice questions are designed to assess students' factual knowledge of the course content. Each question has only one correct answer, and no penalty is applied for incorrect or unanswered questions. The open-ended question will be assessed based on the accuracy and completeness of the answer, the ability to develop a well-reasoned argument, and the capacity for synthesis.

The final grade is based on the overall score achieved across all parts of the examination, according to the following grading criteria:

18: Barely sufficient knowledge, primarily factual.

19–22: Sufficient knowledge of the fundamental course content, with some uncertainty in the application and critical elaboration of concepts.

23–26: Fair to good knowledge, with generally good application skills and minor inaccuracies.

27–30: Solid knowledge, good command of the course content, and demonstrated critical thinking skills.

30 cum laude: Excellent and comprehensive knowledge, full mastery of the subject matter, and outstanding command of academic language.

No midterm examinations are scheduled.

Although this course is held in Italian, Erasmus students can contact dr. Rossella Di Pierro if they wish to take the exam in English..

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Detailed information about the course materials will be published on the course e-learning page

Sustainable Development Goals

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