



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Percezione e Attenzione

2627-2-E2403P018

Learning area

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

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Major topics in psychology of perception and attention.
- Theories and methods in the perception and attention research.
- The interaction between perception-attention

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to critically analyze results of the most recent works in attention and perception
- Ability to understand and assimilate contents of original research papers in attention and perception
- Ability to recognize the non-pathological cognitive functioning

Making Judgments

Students will develop the ability to autonomously integrate methodological and theoretical skills in the field of perception and attention, applying them to critically evaluate previous studies and to propose new research projects within the various subfields of the discipline.

Particular emphasis will be placed on analyzing specific methodological challenges related to the investigative techniques used in the study of attentional and perceptual processes.

Students will also develop the ability to reorganize acquired knowledge to generate innovative and original solutions, grounded in empirical data and a critical understanding of the complexities that characterize the study of attention and perception. These objectives will be achieved through lectures and cooperative learning activities.

Communication Skills

Students will develop communication skills that enable effective interaction with professionals from diverse cultural and scientific backgrounds. Through presentations, they will learn to present scientific findings in the field of attention and perception, using specialized language and the discipline's specific terminology.

In addition, collaborative skills will be strengthened, with particular focus on teamwork through cooperative learning activities.

Learning Skills

The course will support the acquisition of the ability to stay updated on models and theories related to perception and attention. Students will be guided in understanding course content through structured lectures.

Contents

The course aims to provide students with advanced tools to learn and study two specific groups of processes: visual perception and spatial attention. It will be discussed how these two distinct groups of processes are interlinked and the role they play in the interpretation of the world around us.

Detailed program

Research methods:

- Overview of methodology notions
- Overview of basic psychophysical notions
- How to prepare a screen representation of one's research
- How to understand whether a scientific paper is relevant to one's research without having to read it entirely
- How to structure a project/manuscript

Perception:

- The concept of illusion; visual illusions
- Psychological theories of perception;
- Perceptual organization;
- Perceptual constancies;
- The perception of space;
- Chromatic and achromatic colors, and the perception of light.

Attention:

- Classic experimental paradigms;
- Selective attention: theories and phenomena;
- Attentional capture and inattention blindness.
- Social attention
- Divided Attention
- Attention in daily contexts

Prerequisites

It is assumed that the student has acquired the contents of an introductory course in Experimental Psychology. Knowledge of the English language is also required.

Teaching methods

Course delivered through different teaching modalities:

- 14 two-hour classes delivered in person through Didactic Delivery (DD).
- 1 two-hour class delivered remotely through Didactic Delivery (DD).
- 10 two-hour classes delivered through Didactic Interaction (DI) using a cooperative learning approach.
- 3 two-hour Didactic Interaction (DI) activities supervised by the instructor, including seminars, exhibitions, and guided visits.

Assessment methods

The assessment consists of a written examination followed by a mandatory oral examination.

The written examination consists of 20 multiple-choice questions aimed at assessing the acquisition of the theoretical and methodological knowledge related to perceptual and attentional processes covered in the course.

Each correct answer is worth 1 point.

Incorrect or omitted answers receive 0 points.

The oral examination is designed to assess the ability to critically integrate theoretical and methodological knowledge in the fields of perception and attention, critically evaluate scientific literature, and use appropriate scientific terminology.

The oral examination is graded on a scale from 0 to 10 points according to the following criteria:

- accuracy and completeness of contents (0–2 points);
- clarity of presentation (0–2 points);
- appropriateness of scientific language (0–2 points);
- ability to critically analyse the presented contents (0–2 points);
- ability to connect and compare the presented contents with theoretical models, empirical findings, and topics covered during the course (0–2 points).

The oral examination consists of one of the following activities, chosen by the student:

1. presentation of a scientific article agreed upon with the instructor;
2. development and presentation of a research project based on a scientific article agreed upon with the instructor.

For both activities, the scientific article must:

- have been published in 2020 or later;
- be written in English;
- address topics consistent with the contents of the course;

- report an original experimental study;
- not be a theoretical paper, review article, or meta-analysis.

The final grade is obtained by summing the score achieved in the written examination (maximum 20 points) and the oral examination (maximum 10 points), for a maximum total of 30 points.

The final grade is assigned according to the following criteria:

- **18:** barely sufficient knowledge of the core course contents, with limited ability to critically analyse the scientific article and relate its findings to the theoretical models of perception and attention.
- **19–22:** sufficient knowledge of the fundamental course contents, with an adequate understanding of the rationale, methodology and results of the experimental study, although with limited critical discussion.
- **23–26:** good knowledge of the course contents, with an appropriate ability to critically analyse the scientific article, interpret its methodology and findings, and relate them to the theoretical models covered during the course.
- **27–30:** thorough knowledge of the course contents, with a strong ability to critically discuss the experimental study, evaluate its methodological strengths and limitations, integrate its findings with the scientific literature, and use appropriate scientific terminology.
- **30 with honours:** outstanding mastery of the course contents, with excellent ability to critically analyse and discuss the experimental study or develop an original research proposal, demonstrating independent judgment, the ability to integrate scientific literature, methodological rigor, and excellent scientific communication skills.

No mid-term examinations are planned.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides from the lessons

Other reference books and articles on the topics of the course will be published on the course's e-learning website before the start of classes.

Psicologia generale

6/Ed. Sandra K. Ciccarelli - J. Noland White – a cura di Paola Ricciardelli, Cristina Iani -Cap 1-3-4

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY
