UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Psychology I - 1

2627-1-E2403P001-T1

Learning area

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

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- The experimental approach to psychology: methods and theory
- Main themes and most relevant theories in the study of individual behavioural and cognitive functioning.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to understand the technical language of the field
- Ability to understand the research results in psychology
- Ability to identify the psychological processes involved in individual behaviour in everyday life
- Ability to recognize the non-pathological cognitive functioning

Making judgments

The course aims to develop students' critical thinking and reflective skills through the in-depth study of theoretical content and activities of peer discussion and debate, oriented toward the understanding and application of the topics covered.

Communication skills

The course aims to develop the ability to communicate clearly and accurately the main theoretical and

methodological content of general psychology, using the technical language of the discipline appropriately.

Learning skills

The course provides basic knowledge in the theoretical, methodological, and experimental domains related to mental processes and the behavior of the typical adult, with the aim of promoting autonomous learning and in-depth study. To this end, active participation in lectures, peer-to-peer discussion, and the use of supplementary materials on key topics will be encouraged.

Contents

The course introduces students to the most relevant theories and theoretical approaches in the study of general psychology, analyzing in detail some cognitive processes. The intent is to clarify the subjects of interest of general psychology and how general psychology studies the processes and phenomena of interest.

Detailed program

- Experimental approach used by general psychology with particular emphasis on methodological and theoretical aspects.
- Sensory systems - sight
- Perception
- Attention
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotions

Prerequisites

Receptive and productive language skills
Analytical abilities in understanding and reasoning
The capacity of synthesis and content processing

Teaching methods

All lessons will be in class.

Different teaching methods will be used:

1. Lessons. They will be used to present and explain the contents. They will make up (approximately) the 80% of the course (46 hours) and will be conducted in delivery mode in person.

2. Discussions (approximatley the 20% of the course - 10 hours). They will be used to: a) answer the questions and scrutinise the most complex topics; b) fill in and comment the results of the questionnairs and

possible small assignment; c) discuss together theoretical/methodological issues of particular interest. These will be conducted in interactive mode in presence.
Discussions will be based on the outcomes of the following tools: Short self-evaluation and feedback questionnaires +hot questions. The aim of the questionnaires is twofold: allowing students to self-evaluate and to give a feedback on the most recent topics presented during the lessons. Questionnaires will also include some exercises and assignments, so that students can try to apply to specific cases what they have lernt in the last lessons. The questionnaires will NOT be evaluated. However, students will be able to self-evaluate their learning progresses.
During the same period, studens will have the chance to post questions on topics presented during the latest lessons and to vote the questions posted by collagues. Hot questions will be discussed in class, starting from the most voted ones.

Note Activity at point 2 will be only for students completing the course in active participation mode.

Teacher-to-student and student-to-student communications and discussions will be fostered through a dedicated channel (telegram group)

Assessment methods

Written exam

Four computer-based open questions. Answers have a length of approximately 15 lines (maximum time for the exam: 50 minutes). Questions may be on both theoretical and empirical/methodological arguments that are part of the textbooks and reading materials (and independently of wether they have been discussed in class). Each question is evaluated with a scale that goes from 0 (unanswered question, or totally not consequential or patently wrong answer) to 7.5 (well-argued complete and correct answer). The sum of the scorse of the 4 questions gives the final grade of the exam or – if the grade is at least 18 – the starting grade of the optional oral exam. Honors (cum laude) is awarded in the following cases: a) the exam, which received a score of 30, is conducted in an excellent manner and is perfect in terms of the use of the discipline's specialized terminology; b) the final score exceeds 30.5 (see below regarding the assignment of any additional points for students who complete the course in active participation mode).

The grid below provides a general description of the correspondence between grades and exam quality:

- 30 with honors (cum laude): excellent performance, both in terms of knowledge and critical and expressive articulation;
- 30: outstanding performance, complete knowledge, well-articulated and correctly expressed;
- 27–29: good performance, thorough and satisfactory knowledge, substantially correct expression;
- 24–26: fair performance, knowledge present in the main areas but not exhaustive and not always correctly articulated;
- 21–23: sufficient performance, knowledge sometimes superficial, expression and articulation incomplete and not always appropriate;
- 18–21: barely sufficient performance, knowledge present but superficial; expression and articulation of content with significant gaps;
- < 18: insufficient performance, knowledge very incomplete or absent, lack of orientation in the subject.

For students completing the course in active participation mode : Participating to the lessons, as well as filling the questionnaires and posting the hot questions will be evaluated with a score from 0 to 2. Note that this score is summed to the other scores only if the student obtain at least 18 in the written exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Cherubini P., Bricolo E., Reverberi C. (a cura di) (2021). Psicologia generale (nuova edizione). Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore.

The program is the following:
Chapter 1 --> the whole chapter except for 1.3.4.1 and 1.3.4.2
Chapter 2 --> only sections: 2.1, 2.2, 2.6
Chapter 3 --> the whole chapter
Chapter 4 --> the whole chapter
Chapter 5 --> the whole chapter
Chapter 6 --> the whole chapter except for: Figure 6.1, boxes 6.2, 6.5
Chapter 11 --> the whole chapter except for: 11.4.2, 11.4.3, 11.6; for what concerns 11.3.2, consider only the Theory of Appraisal by Scherer (fom p. 463, paragraph annoteted with "teoria dell'appraisal di Scherer" to p. 465, end of first paragraph).

Possible support materials will be made available by the teacher on the course website.

Note that the topics that are not explained in lectures, but are present in the indicated paragraphs of the textbook, are part of the exam programme.

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

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES