UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Storia della Psicologia - 2

2627-1-E2403P005-T2

Learning area

Learning area n.1 - Contents and skills for describing and promoting changes in individual psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding:
• outline the development of major theories in the evolution of psychological knowledge
• focus on the issue of the epistemological status of psychology and its social role
• provide and essential and qualifying scientific and cultural background
Applying knowledge and understanding:
• Provide depth, direction, and foundations to current psychological knowledge.
• Interdisciplinarity
• Grasp the relationships between different fields of psychological knowledge.
Making of judgements

- Development of critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of new and complex ideas through guided reading of texts from the Western psychological tradition, group discussions, and seminar activities.
  Communication skills
- Development of the ability to communicate, clearly and mindfully, the concepts, ideas, and issues that have defined and continue to shape the scope of psychology.
- Development of strong active listening skills and a capacity for interdisciplinary dialogue.
  Learning skills
- Development of the ability to pursue one's educational path through enhanced critical awareness and a more specific, refined theoretical-conceptual and methodological sensitivity."

Contents

The course aims to present an overview of the issues related to the birth of scientific psychology, promoting critical reflection on the theoretical, epistemological, and methodological assumptions, as well as on the social influences that have historically guided its development. Focus will be placed on the origin, evolution, and transformation of the main research trends and the various conceptions of the psyche from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.

Detailed program

• The "long past" of psychology and the development of human sciences between the 18th and 19th centuries.
• The rise of experimental psychology in Germany and other national contexts in the second half of the 19th century.
• The reflexological tradition in Russia: from Sechenov to Pavlov
• American psychology between the 19th and 20th centuries.
• The phenomenological tradition and Gestalt theory
• Behaviorism and Cognitivism
• The socio-cultural school
• The phenomenological approach in psychiatry
• The psychodynamic perspective and psychoanalysis
• Models od the psyche and psychopathology

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

In-person lectures delivered through direct instruction. Teaching methods will include lectures, in-class discussions on concepts and themes emerged during the course, the analysis of historically and scientifically significant texts, and potential in-depth seminar activities. The course is taught in Italian.

Assessment methods

Learning assessment will be conducted through a written exam, divided into a multiple-choice section and an open-ended question section. The questions are designed to verify the effective acquisition of the themes and authors presented, the ability to navigate the bibliography texts, and the capacity for critical engagement with them.
There are no mid-term exams.
The final evaluation takes into account the overall score obtained in the different parts of the exam, according to the following criteria:

- Insufficient: knowledge is absent or highly fragmented, lack of orientation in the discipline; poor and severely lacking expression.

- 18–20: barely sufficient performance, superficial knowledge of the core content; lacking exposition.
- 21–23: sufficient performance, core knowledge is present although mostly superficial and poorly contextualized; lacking exposition.
- 24–26: fair performance, essential knowledge acquired, but not entirely exhaustive and not always structured precisely and correctly. Acceptable exposition.
- 27–29: good performance, exhaustive and adequately contextualized knowledge; correct exposition.
- 30: excellent performance, in-depth and well-structured knowledge, expressed correctly and with appropriate terminology, not lacking critical insights.
- 30 cum laude (with honors): outstanding performance, fully acquired knowledge with excellent critical and expressive structuring.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

REQUIRED READINGS (mandatory):
• E-learning course materials in the section “MATERIALI OBBLIGATORI PER L'ESAME”
• E-learning course materials in the section “TESTI E LETTURE”
• Thompson, R. (2013). Storia della psicologia. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri (cap. 5)
• Mecacci, L. (2024). Storia della psicologia. Dal Novecento ad oggi. Bari-Roma: Laterza (cap. I, pp. 3-23; cap. III: pp. 84-138 e 144-158)
• Vegetti Finzi, S. (2024). Storia della psicoanalisi. Autori Opere Teorie 1895-1990. Milano: Mondadori (capp. I, II, III, IV, V)

SUGGESTED READINGS (optional):
• Babini, V.P. (1994). La psichiatria, in P. Corsi, C. Pogliano (a cura di), Storia delle scienze. Natura e vita: l’età moderna. Torino: Einaudi, pp. 402-437.
• Civita, A. (2013). Psicopatologia. Un’introduzione storica. Roma: Carocci.
• Danziger, K. (1995). La costruzione del soggetto. Le origini storiche della ricerca psicologica. Bari-Roma: Laterza.
• Ellenberger, H. (2001). La scoperta dell’inconscio. Storia della psichiatria dinamica. 2 voll. Torino: Bollati Boringhieri.
• Foschi, R. (2020). Storia della psicologia e della mente. Milano: Mondadori.
• Gould, S.J. (2016). Intelligenza e pregiudizio, contro i fondamenti scientifici del razzismo. Milano: Il Saggiatore.
• Gusdorf, G. (1972). Introduzione alle scienze umane. Bologna: Il Mulino.
• Jervis G., Bartolomei G. (2008). Freud. Roma: Carocci.
• Legrenzi, P. (2012). Storia della psicologia. Bologna: Il Mulino.
• Luccio, R. (2000). La psicologia: un profilo storico. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
• Mecacci, L. (1999). Psicologia moderna e postmoderna. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
• Mecacci, L. (2004). Introduzione alla psicologia. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
• Molaro, A. (2013). Modelli di schizofrenia. Milano: Cortina.
• Molaro, A. (2016). Psicoanalisi e fenomenologia. Dialettica dell’umano ed epistemologia. Milano: Corina.
• Morabito, C. (2007). Introduzione alla storia della psicologia. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
• Morabito, C. (2008). La mente nel cervello. Un’introduzione storica alla neuropsicologia cognitiva. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
• Musatti, C.L. (2025). Freud, psicoanalisi e psicologia, a cura di A. Molaro. Milano-Udine: Mimesis.
• Pewzner, E., Braunstein, J-F. (2001). Storia della psicologia. Torino: Boringhieri.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION