



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Neuropsicologia ed Elementi di Psicopatologia Forense

2627-2-F5110P017

Learning area

Models and techniques of intervention and rehabilitation.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Mental capacity in litigation from the psychopathologic and neuropsychological perspectives.
- Criteriology and methodology of scientific and technical psychological counseling in forensic settings.
- Psychological tools to be used in the legal field.
- The role of neuroscience in the expert witness field.

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Typology, content, and purpose of forensic psychological investigation: how to conduct psychological technical consultation in criminal and civil cases.
- Know how to choose methods and tools for assessing psychological, cognitive and behavioral functioning for forensic purposes.

Making Judgements

Through classroom discussion of court cases, the course stimulates critical and autonomous elaboration of psycho-forensic methodology, developing divergent thinking skills to answer psychological questions inherent in nonclinical cases, thus promoting the ability to decline diagnostic reasoning depending on the scope of intervention.

Communication skills

Classroom exercises and the type of written exam, which involves critically arguing in response to open-ended questions on the main topics of the course, aims to strengthen communication skills of complex concepts across different disciplines, using appropriate scientific language adapted for communication to a diverse audience of

professionals.

Learning skills

Classroom presentation of scientific evidence aims to stimulate autonomy in study and the ability to investigate topics in depth through critical and evidence-based selection for continuous updating of knowledge.

Contents

Psychological technical consulting in forensic science: prerogatives of neuropsychological and psychopathological assessment.

Methodology of psychoforensic examination.

Legal background for the purposes of technical psychological advice in civil and criminal contexts.

Detailed program

- Typology and content of expert opinion and technical advice in psychopathological and neuropsychological matters, with reference to the cornerstones of legal reasoning.
- Medico-legal concepts of insanity, imputability and capacity.
- The simulation of mental illness and cognitive deficits.
- Psychodiagnostic and neuropsychological testing in forensic settings.
- Neurobiological and genetic correlates of criminal behavior.
- The neuroscientific approach in the forensic field.

Prerequisites

A solid knowledge of the theoretical and methodological foundations of clinical psychopathology and neuropsychology and of the methods of cognitive neuroscience is essential to face the course content.

The legal part and the implications for the experts' assessment focus on the law in force in Italy.

Teaching methods

The course will mainly consist of frontal room lessons in Italian. Classroom lectures are supplemented by interactive discussions of forensic cases with group exercises and follow-up seminars (20% of the total course hours).

During the course, in-depth material will be offered so that the content is also usable by non-frequent students/students.

Assessment methods

The written exam comprises a section with multiple-choice questions and one open question. Multiple-choice

questions are designed at ascertaining the extensive preparation on the course topics, and it consists in questions assessing the acquisition of theoretical and conceptual knowledge. The open question allows assessing the ability to present and critically discuss a topic covered in class, using appropriate technical language. The evaluation criteria are: the number of correct answers to the multiple-choice questions, a comprehensive and timely answer at the open question.

No midterm assessments are scheduled.

The final grade is based on the overall score achieved across the different sections of the examination, according to the following grading scale:

18: Basic and limited knowledge of the fundamental theoretical content; minimal ability to apply and interpret concepts and methods; limited use of technical and discipline-specific terminology.

19–22: Satisfactory knowledge of the fundamental theoretical content; correct but superficial ability to apply and interpret methods and concepts; sufficiently appropriate use of technical and discipline-specific terminology.

23–26: Good and reasonably thorough knowledge of the theoretical content; adequate ability to apply and interpret concepts and methods, despite some inaccuracies; appropriate use of technical and discipline-specific terminology.

27–30: Solid and well-structured theoretical knowledge; strong command of methodological tools and good ability to critically integrate theoretical knowledge with its practical applications; precise and fluent use of technical and discipline-specific terminology.

30 with honours: Excellent, comprehensive, and in-depth knowledge of the course content; complete mastery of the methodological approaches; outstanding interpretative and argumentative skills; mature, rigorous, and precise use of technical and discipline-specific terminology.

For international students (Erasmus Program), it will be possible to answer the written exam questions in English or arrange with the lecturer to take the oral exam in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Bolognini N. (2024), 'Manuale di neuropsicologia e psicopatologia forense', Il Mulino Editore

Optional follow-up book: Sammiceli, L. (2019), 'La perizia psicologica. Prospettive e metodi in psicologia e psicopatologia forense', Il Mulino Editore

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION
