



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psycho-Legal Interventions in Public and Private Settings

2627-2-F5111P014

Learning area

Models and techniques for intervention and rehabilitation

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- The dialogue between law and psychology
- Theoretical bases and fields of study
- Fields and forms of intervention
- New perspectives

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Ability to identify the peculiarities of psychological work in the legal field
- Ability to dialogue with other disciplines
- The ability to apply the models in natural settings

Making judgments

Students are encouraged to compare the content of the lectures with current events, news related to legal developments, and operational practices in the professional field. Cases are brought to class either by the participants themselves or provided by the professor. These cases are then discussed and reviewed.

Communication skills

The interdisciplinary nature of the course primarily fosters the development of language skills, with particular focus on legal terminology. These skills are further enhanced through active dialogue with various professionals who

regularly participate in the lectures. The acquired skills will be practiced through interactive teaching and applied during the oral exam.

Learning skills

The course provides both theoretical and practical foundations that enable participants to independently engage with in-depth materials and read legal texts. The introduction to the subject also offers appropriate guidance for choosing the most suitable educational paths to further develop one's knowledge in the field of forensic psychology. The acquired knowledge also allows students to competently navigate different applied contexts that directly or indirectly deal with psycho-legal matters.

Contents

The course aims primarily to introduce students to the peculiarities of psychological work in judicial settings, the various circumstances in which psychological expertise is required, and the different professional forms and contexts in which psychologists operate in this capacity. The overarching objective is to foster an awareness of the nature of psycholegal intervention, which is typically focused on the dialectic between help and control, with the judicial authority as the commissioning and ultimate interlocutor.

Detailed program

Forensic Psychology: Fundamentals, Areas, and Forms of Intervention

Areas of Intervention:

- Child protection in family conflicts
- Child protection in cases of vulnerability
- Listening to minors and vulnerable victims
- Adoption and foster care
- Protection of deviant minors and juvenile offenders
- The psychologist in the Forensic Psychiatry Units
- Psychology in prison settings

Intervention Tools:

- The role of child protection services and local services at first and second levels
- Psychosocial investigation
- Court-appointed technical consultation

Prerequisites

Nothing specific.

Teaching methods

The lessons will primarily present the basic theoretical constructs (lecture mode) that will be discussed with the participants (interactive mode). Additionally, there will be interventions by experts in forensic psychology, as well as social workers and legal professionals, to present case studies for discussion with the participants.

8 lectures of 2 hours each conducted in-person in lecture mode;
20 lectures of 2 hours each conducted in-person in interactive mode.

All activities will be held in person

Assessment methods

There are no ongoing (in-itinere) assessments.

The assessment of learning will be conducted through an oral exam, consisting of a discussion on the topics covered in the lessons and the exam texts. This is aimed at verifying the achievement of the previously outlined objectives.

Evaluation criteria:

- Accuracy and comprehensiveness of knowledge
- Language appropriateness
- Comprehension of the distinct traits of the discipline
- Competence in reflecting about problems of interdisciplinarity

The final evaluation takes into account the score obtained in the oral exam, according to the following grading scale:

18: barely sufficient knowledge, minimal applicative and interpretive abilities;
19-22: sufficient knowledge of the fundamental content, limited ability to elaborate and make connections between the topics covered, and some uncertainties in application;
23-26: fairly good knowledge, moderate ability to make connections between the topics covered, and fairly good applicative ability with some imprecision;
27-30: solid knowledge, good command of the content and critical ability, good command of language;
30 cum laude: fully adequate knowledge, full command, excellent command of language.

Although this course is held in Italian, Erasmus students may contact the professor to arrange the possibility of taking the exam in English but course material is not available in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Currently under definition.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
