



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Practical Class: Psychological Characteristics of Deafness and Sign Languages

2627-2-F5111P026

Learning area

Models and techniques for assessing psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- human language modalities
- history of signing communities
- different approaches to deafness

Applying knowledge and understanding

- critical analysis of scientific texts
- critical analysis of video materials
- correct use of terminology on deafness

Making judgements

Development of critical thinking regarding theoretical models and clinical approaches to deafness and signed languages, with specific attention to cognitive, cultural, and communicative aspects. Ability to independently evaluate textual and multimedia content, recognizing implicit biases and stereotypes.

Communication skills

Consolidation of the ability to clearly and respectfully convey information, observations, and reflections related to deafness and sign languages, using up-to-date and culturally informed terminology. Development of skills for critical dialogue and collaboration within group and interdisciplinary settings.

Learning skills

Strengthening of autonomous learning skills through the analysis of scientific texts, video materials, and seminar-based discussions. Acquisition of theoretical and practical tools to integrate linguistic, cognitive, and cultural knowledge in future professional practice in clinical psychology.

Contents

During the classes, the concept of human language modalities will be introduced, and from this, the focus will be on sign language communities, dealing with their history and reflecting on their heterogeneity. Various approaches to deafness will also be discussed, with a focus on the different educational approaches used with deaf children.

Detailed program

1. The language faculty: spoken and sign languages
2. History of sign communities in Italy and the world
3. Prejudices related to sign communities
4. The Milan congress and the stigma of deafness
5. Different perspectives and approaches to deafness
6. Education of deaf people: history and current affairs

Prerequisites

Nessuno

Teaching methods

Interactive teaching: Starting from books, articles or films, we will discuss different aspects related to the course topics. Everyone will be invited to share their opinions. Meetings with experts on topics related to deafness will also be organised during the course.

All the lessons will be held in presence

Assessment methods

The participation in 70% of the lessons is required.

The assessment of learning outcomes will be conducted through an individual project requiring the selection, study, and presentation of a scientific article or a clinical case study relevant to the course topics and the field of deafness. This project evaluates the acquisition of theoretical core concepts, the capacity to critically analyze scientific literature or clinical data, and the proper use of specialized terminology. It also assesses the student's ability to independently and thoughtfully evaluate the selected material, alongside their skills in delivering a clear,

precise, and respectful presentation of the chosen content, even during group discussions. Lastly, the selection of the article or case study itself reflects the student's ability to independently navigate the relevant scientific literature and applied contexts of the discipline.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

We will base our discussions on the following texts (or parts of them):

Branchini, C. e Mantovan, L., 2020. A Grammar of Italian Sign Language (LIS). Lingue Dei Segni e Sordità. Solo Part 1. Socio-Historical Background (OPENACCESS)

Marziale, B. e Volterra, V. (Eds.), 2016. Lingua dei segni, società, diritti. Carrocci Faber.

Volterra, V. (2014). Chi ha paura della lingua dei segni?. Psicologia clinica dello sviluppo, 18(3), 425-427.

Sacks, O., 2014. Vedere voci. Adelphi Edizioni

Trovato, S., & Folchi, A. (Eds.). (2022). The Social Condition of Deaf People: The Story of a Woman and a Hearing Society (Vol. 16). Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.

Further reference articles will be indicated on e-learning during the lecture period

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
