UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Clinical Psychology

2627-1-F5111P006

Learning area

Models and Techniques for the Assessment of Psychological Functioning

Learning objectives

Learning Objectives (in line with the Dublin Descriptors)

1. *Knowledge and Understanding*

-Acquisition of the main theoretical approaches in clinical psychology.

-Understanding of the fundamental aspects of psychiatric and psychodynamic diagnosis.

-Knowledge of the general principles of clinical treatment.

2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding

-Ability to formulate a clinical framework for patient assessment.

-Critical analysis of psychopathological conditions through theoretical and clinical diagnostic tools.

-Understanding of the methodological foundations of clinical work.

3. Making Judgements

-Development of evaluative skills regarding different models of psychological functioning.

-Ability to integrate clinical and theoretical information to formulate diagnostic and therapeutic hypotheses.

4. Communication Skills

-Ability to clearly and appropriately present clinical concepts, even in multidisciplinary contexts.

-Use of appropriate technical and scientific language for academic and clinical communication.

5. Learning Skills

-Development of tools for autonomous and continuous learning in the field of clinical psychology.

-Promotion of a reflective and critical attitude toward theoretical and practical sources.

Contents

Summary of Contents
The course aims to provide advanced competencies related to clinical diagnosis and the understanding of psychological dynamics, with particular attention to defense mechanisms and personality organizations/disorders, especially within the narcissistic and borderline areas. Affective disorders will also be addressed, along with an in-depth exploration of contemporary models relevant to clinical practice.

Detailed program

Extended Program

-General aspects of clinical practice – theoretical foundations

-Descriptive framework according to the DSM-5

-Defense mechanisms

-Psychodynamic assessment: personality organizations and disorders

-Clinical presentation of affective, anxiety, and personality disorders

-Narcissism and narcissistic disorders

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of Psychopathology (DSM-5) and Dynamic Psychology is required. Students who do not possess this background are encouraged to inform the instructor in order to receive supplementary reading materials.

Teaching methods

Teaching Methods

Lectures (approximately 70%)

Interactive activities and clinical applications (approximately 30%)

Use of clinical materials, videos, and guided discussions

Assessment methods

There are no ongoing (in-itinere) assessments.

The exam consists of:
-A written test (30 multiple-choice questions; minimum score of 18/30 required to access the oral exam)
-An oral exam covering the entire programme, including prerequisites

The multiple-choice questions are aimed at extensively assessing the student's preparation, while the open-ended questions are designed to evaluate the ability to reason critically and make connections between the knowledge acquired. The evaluation criteria are: accuracy of answers for closed-ended questions, and adequacy of content, logical and formal organization, and terminology for open-ended answers.

The final evaluation takes into account the overall score obtained in the different parts of the exam, according to the following grading scale:

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

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. Lingiardi V., Madeddu F. (2023). I meccanismi di difesa. Raffaello Cortina (cap 1, cap 3, cap 4, appendice)
2. Gabbard G.O. (2014). Psychodynamic Psychiatry in Clinical Practice. American Psychiatric Press (cap 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,14,15,17,18,19)
3. Madeddu F. (2020). I mille volti di Narciso. Raffaello Cortina (cap 1,2,3,6,11,12,14)
4. Any other materials will be provided during the lesson."

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING