UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Child Neuropsychiatry

2627-1-F5111P011

Learning area

Models and Techniques for assessing psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

· Broad issues in child and adolescent neuropsychiatry.

· Knowledge of diagnostic principles and intervention within a multidisciplinary approach

Applying knowledge and understanding

· Acquisition of the general principles of child and adolescent neuropsychiatric assessment and reasoning

Making Judgments

. Promoting critical thinking abouts limits and potentials of categorial diagnosis and its practical applications in developmental age

Communication skills

· Developing skills to describe clinical phenomenology needed to define clinical symptoms and signs in developmental age

Learning skills

· Developing skills to guide learning towards a non mnemonic knowledge of diagnostic criteria, via an understanding of transversal psychopathological issues

Contents

The course introduces the students to the study of (I) diagnoses and differential diagnostic aspects of the main childhood neuropsychiatric disorders (DSM-5) (II) notes on psychopharmacology in childhood and adolescence (III) notes on treatment criteria.

Detailed program

· Autism spectrum disorders (clinical cases and treatment)
· Neurodivergence and Neurodiversity: clinical aspects
. Obsessive compulsive disorders (clinical cases and treatment)
· Anxiety disorders
· Mood disorders
· Early onset psychoses
· ADHD, conduct and behavior disorders (clinical cases, treatment)
· Notes on psychopharmacology in childhood and adolescence
· Innovative models of intervention in Neuropsychiatry and outcome evaluation
· Child neuropsychiatry services, organizational and treatment models and the role of the clinical psychologist

Prerequisites

General knowledge of DSM-5 diagnostic criteria and essential elements of general psychopathology.

Teaching methods

Lecture-based teaching: 48 hours, Interactive: 8 hours. All lessons will be held in presence.
Videos will be used.
No lesson will be held remotely.

Assessment methods

No “in itinere” tests
Multiple choice test (true/false) and mandatory oral exam
The multiple choice questions aim to extensively test the student's competences, with particular attention to the topics covered in class and the material available on the slides uploaded after each lesson.
The oral exam consists of an interview to discuss the written test and in-depth analysis with questions on the topics on the programme.

The evaluation criteria are: accuracy of the answers for the closed questions, adequacy of the contents, logical and formal organization and terminology for the answers to the open questions.

In particular, the final evaluation takes into account the score obtained in 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.

Erasmus students can contact the teacher to agree on the possibility of studying from a bibliography in English and/or the possibility of taking the exam in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Mandatory:

1. APA (2023). Mini DSM-5 TR. Criteri diagnostici. Milano: Raffaello Cortina Ed. (per i disturbi indicati)

? Alternatively one of the following:

2. Benzoni S., Costantino A., Lyons J. Partecipazione e Valutazione di esito nella salute mentale in età evolutiva.
   OR
   3 Di Pasquale D., Parascenzo A., Benzoni S. Assessment collaborativo nei disturbi del neurosviluppo in età prescolare - Un modello di valutazione e diagnosi in collaborazione con le famiglieTrento, Erickson Ed. (2025)

Optional:
3. Benzoni S., Figli Fragili, Bari, Laterza (2017)
4. Guidetti V, Neuropsichiatria dell'Infanzia e dell'adolescenza, Il Mulino (2016)

Informazioni dettagliate circa altro materiale didattico saranno pubblicate sulla pagina e-learning associata al corso prima dell'inizio dell'attività didattica.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING