Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Liedia de Bulsan

Syllabus
Course description

Course title:	General psychology
Course year:	1st
Semester:	2nd
Course code:	51076 (BA Social Work) 64168 (BA Social Education)
Scientific sector:	M-PSI/01
Lecturer:	Basso Demis
Module:	/
Lecturer other module:	/
Credits:	6
Total lecturing hours:	45
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:	18
Office hours:	from Monday to Friday on request
Attendance:	according to the regulation
Teaching language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	none
Course description:	The course will provide an overview of the scientific content in the discipline of General Psychology* (M-PSI/01). The information provided by the course will enable students to - create interventions by considering limits and potentials of cognitive processes; - improve students' intuition for identifying and solving problems; - acquire valid theories/models for understanding and managing behaviour, not based on the fallacies of common sense; - to put interventions at individual level on a solid and credible basis. Students will be encouraged to ask questions, critique and compare the topics discussed in the lectures with their own experience. * Please note that "General Psychology" does not mean "All Psychology", but is a specific scientific field. A description can be found here: http://www.miur.it/UserFiles/116.htm
Specific educational objectives:	To understand how the human cognitive system works, in order to be able to create effective and valid interaction, interventions and projects.
List of topics covered:	- Introduction to General Psychology; - sensation and perception; - attention, consciousness and awareness; - learning and memory; - communication and language; - intelligence, emotions and motivation; - decision making, problem solving and reasoning; - action planning and motor processing.

Teaching format:	Frontal-interactive lessons and laboratory for in-depth study
Learning outcomes:	*Knowledge and understanding* Students will demonstrate familiarity with the most important concepts, theoretical perspectives, scientific findings and recent trends in general psychology. They are expected to improve their understanding of behaviour, its biological, emotional and cognitive components and effects. *Applied knowledge and understanding* Students will develop insight into their own and others' behaviours and mental processes, and will be able to apply effective strategies for self-management and development. They are expected to apply psychological theories, concepts and methods to contemporary problems, using this knowledge in their own lives and work to solve practical situations and problems. *Autonomy of judgement* Students will be strongly encouraged to consider and use critical and creative thinking, to be curious but scientifically skeptical and, when possible, to recognise valid versus invalid approaches and findings. *Communication skills* Students will be able to communicate adequately on psychological content and topics, without being carried away by flights of fancy. Furthermore, they are expected to improve their communication strategies, particularly with regard to non-verbal communication. *Ability to learn* Once they understand how the cognitive system works (and that it rarely works as it is described through common sense), students will be able to choose and use the best learning method and thus improve their study skills. Not only that, but such solid information will make them differentiate themselves from other professionals with whom they collaborate, enabling them to be more effective and considered.
Assessment:	Students can choose whether to take the examination in written form (2.1) or oral form (2.2). 2.1- The written examination consists of five questions to be answered in a maximum of 6-7 lines. For each question, the number indicated in brackets represents the range of points available (N): for a sufficient answer = 0 points; for very good, rich and complete answers = N points; no answer or totally wrong answer = -N points. Starting from 18, the mark will be calculated by adding (or subtracting) all the points awarded for the answers. 2.2- The oral examination consists of a 30-40 minute interview: a general question will introduce a topic, and subsequent questions/comments will continue to explore pragmatic competence (based on theoretical knowledge) to solve plausible problem situations.
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:	I am not interested in measuring the students' ability to reproduce information, but whether they know how to manage knowledge (which can be useful in future work) and whether they can critically motivate the decisions they

	make. Of course, I cannot check whether they will also show these skills in their future work, but I will try to recognise the predictive characteristics by assessing how good they will be at applying the skills acquired in this course. So, I will assess their performance, their "ability to respond to situations/events". It means, in practice, that they will not need to learn lists or names by heart (you can always find them in any textbook). Instead, they will have to demonstrate that they can find an optimal perspective on how to 1. follow a correct course of action in order to get an adequate response to the aims, 2. motivate and elaborate their decision, consistent with both their personal style and scientific knowledge. For such an examination, these are useful skills: ability to argue, to make broad connections between contents; ability to critically analyse and reflect on theories and models, their application and to be able to criticize them; ability to create timely answers about a topic (without long forewords, digressions or deviations).
Required readings:	1- Ling, J., Catling, J., & Upton, D. (2014). *Psychology Express: Cognitive Psychology (Undergraduate Revision Guide)*. Pearson International Content. https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/books/9780273759683 2- slides and lecture notes. As all the material will be available (slides and videos will be online), there is no difference between those who will and those who will not attend the lectures.
Supplementary readings:	Additional readings will be provided during the course, if requested by the students. Participation through OLE-Moodle is not compulsory but recommended, as it is an additional possibility for discussion and interaction; videos of each lecture will be uploaded to an Internet resource. Participation in experiments will be highly encouraged, both for the possibility of understanding what the difference is between research and Blogs/Instagram, and for the possibility of dealing with data collection, which is very important for any work based on experimentation.