

General Information	
Academic subject	Philosophy and Epistemology of Human Sciences
Degree course	Master Degree – Psychology
Curriculum	Clinical and Community Psychology; Work and Organization Psychology
ECTS credits	6
Compulsory attendance	No
Language	Italian

Subject teacher	Name Surname	Mail address	SSD
	Luigi Pastore	luigi.pastore@uniba.it	M-FIL/01

ECTS credits details			
Basic teaching activities	Lectures		

Class schedule	
Period	Fall Semester – a.a. 2020-2021
Year	I
Type of class	Conventional

Time management	
Hours measured	1h=60'
In-class study hours	40
Out-of-class study hours	110

Academic calendar	
Class begins	7 th October 2020
Class ends	31 st January 2021

Syllabus	
Prerequisite requirements	No
Expected learning outcomes	<p><i>Knowledge and understanding:</i> Students will acquire basic notions in the field of argumentation theory, propositional logic, general epistemology, and philosophy of science. Students will become acquainted with fundamental logical concepts such as inference, induction, deduction, validity, argumentative fallacy. Furthermore students will learn to distinguish between understanding and explication and to relate these notions to inductive and deductive methods in the field of philosophy of sciences and epistemology of psychology.</p> <p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding:</i> Students will develop the ability to critically analyze the logical structure of the main theoretical models in general and applied psychology. They will also develop the ability to recognize the main different kinds of explanatory models in scientific literature as well as the ability to properly evaluate the consistency / inconsistency of scientific argumentations (especially far as psychological literature is concerned).</p> <p><i>Making informed judgements and choices:</i> Since students will develop the capacity to analyze the logical</p>

	<p>structure of the explanatory models in scientific literature, they will also be able to critically assess alternative research designs and intervention projects concerning both the empirical research and the clinical practice. Moreover, they will improve their capacity to develop, choose and present arguments in scientific communication.</p> <p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding:</i> Students will learn to optimize their ability to present their research results or their empirical intervention proposals both in written and oral form.</p> <p><i>Capacities to continue learning:</i> Students will be able to carry out logical and conceptual analyses of any kind of argument. This will allow them to optimize their learning skills also at a later stage of their education.</p>
Contents	<p>The course consists of two main parts. The first part will present fundamental notions in the field of the argumentation theory such as (a) the structure of an argument, (b) deductive and inductive inferences, (c) formalization and different strategies to identify the deductive validity of an argument. The second part will provide participants with fundamental notions such as “explanation” and “understanding” in the field of general and applied epistemology, paying particular attention to the epistemology of psychology. Students will acquire familiarity with the standard view of scientific explanation theory on the basis of models such as the deductive-nomological and the deductive-hypothetical ones. Moreover notions such as reductionism and interdisciplinarity, with particular attention to the epistemology of psychology, will be presented and discussed.</p>
Course program	
Bibliography	<p>A. Iacona, <i>L'argomentazione</i>, Einaudi, Torino; J. Nolt, D. Rohatyn, <i>Logica</i>, McGraw-Hill, Milano 2008, pp. 1-77; 121-150; W. Bechtel, <i>Filosofia della scienza e scienza cognitiva</i>, Laterza, Roma-Bari</p>
Notes	<p>Foreign students can prepare the final examination on the following textbooks: A. Varzi, J. Nolt, D. Rohatyn, <i>Logic</i>, McGraw-Hill, New York 1998 (text selection to agree); W. Bechtel, <i>Philosophy of Science: An Overview for Cognitive Science</i>, Erlbaum, Illsdaile (text selection to agree)</p>
Teaching methods	<p>Traditional lecture blended with exercises. Both the first and the second part of the course will be followed by some classes in which students will have the possibility to exercise the acquired contents. In particular, after the second part of the course, students will analyze scientific articles in order to identify the kinds of arguments and of explanations used by the authors. These exercises will be done by students individually and in group and they will be then discussed with</p>

	the teacher in class. These activities will not be considered as part of the final evaluation.
Assessment methods	Written exam. Students will be asked to solve logical problems concerning the deductive logic and the theory of argumentation. As for these exercises, the assessment will take into account whether the solutions are technically correct. Moreover, the exam will also include some open question concerning the conceptual issues discussed during the course. As for them, it will be assessed the accuracy of conceptual understanding, the correct use of technical language and the clarity of writing.
Further information	---