

## COURSE OF STUDY: Psychological sciences and techniques

### ACADEMIC YEAR: III

### ACADEMIC SUBJECT: Techniques of observation of child behaviour

General information	
Year of the course	III year
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	1 October 2023-30 January 2024
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	6
SSD	Developmental and Educational Psychology, M-PSI/04
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Not mandatory

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Virtual room	Teams, virtual room: Ricevimento Coppola faqb4yr
Office Hours (and modalities: e.g., by appointment, on line, etc.)	Monday h 10-12

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
150	40	0	110
CFU/ETCS			
6	6	0	

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	Knowledge of the basics of the techniques for observing child behaviour such as: theoretical frameworks for child observation; organizing the setting, choosing the means for conducting a correct observation, choosing the adequate unit of analysis, the correct strategy to collect the data and to test reliability and lastly, treating the observational data to extract measures. The last part of the course will be devoted to acquiring competence in using the Q-Methodology to assess social competence in preschool years.
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	Basic knowledge in the disciplines of Developmental and Educational Psychology (SSD M-PSI/04)

<b>Teaching strategies</b>	Frontal lessons, practical exercises in the classroom; discussion of videos
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>	Methodological knowledge of the observation of child behaviour
<b>Applying knowledge and</b>	Knowledge of the basics of the techniques for observing child behaviour such as:

<b>understanding on:</b>	organizing the setting, choosing the means for conducting a correct observation, choosing the adequate unit of analysis, the correct strategy to collect the data and to test reliability and lastly, treating the observational data to extract measures.
<b>Soft skills</b>	<p>Making informed judgments and choices: Capacity to distinguish between spontaneous observation and systematic observation applied in developmental psychology; capacity to identify correctly the behaviours to observe; capacity to choose the unit of analysis and the strategy to collect the data, in relations to the aims; capacity to select the correct method to test reliability.</p> <p>Communicating knowledge and understanding: expertise in using the topic's specialized language.</p> <p>Capacities to continue learning: Capacity to project, implement and communicate on systematic observations in the field of developmental and educational psychology; capacity to select opportunities and continue learning and training in relation to the topics.</p>
<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Content knowledge</b>	<p>The first part of the course will be devoted to the following topics: introduction to the observation of child behavior, with the analysis of the theoretical frameworks of child observation; basic choices in systematic observation (who, how and where to observe); different types of observations (qualitative descriptive approach, coding systems, check-lists, evaluation scales); strategies to collect observational data and test reliability.</p> <p>The second part of the course will be devoted to the training of the use of a Q-Sort methodology to assess child social functioning.</p>
<b>Texts and readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Baumgartner, E. (2018). L'osservazione del comportamento infantile. Roma: Carocci.</li> <li>➤ Cassibba R. e Salerni, N. (2023). L'osservazione nei contesti educativi. Tecniche e strumenti. Roma: Carocci.</li> <li>➤ Coppola G., Camodeca M. (2010). La metodologia Q-Sort. Valutare la competenza sociale nella scuola dell'infanzia. Roma: Carocci Editore</li> </ul>
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	A selection of chapters will be made for those attending lessons, as their program will be completed with exercises in the classroom
<b>Repository</b>	The professor will provide additional materials, when necessary

<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Assessment methods</b>	Written exam, with closed questions and exercises. The total time will be 55 minutes.
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<p><i>Knowledge and understanding.</i> The following knowledge will be assessed through practical exercises and cases: Methodological knowledge of the observation of child behaviour.</p> <p><i>Applying knowledge and understanding.</i> The following abilities will be assessed through practical exercises and cases: knowledge of the basics of the techniques for observing child behaviour such as organizing the setting, choosing the means for conducting a correct observation, choosing the adequate unit of analysis, the correct strategy to collect the data and to test reliability and lastly, treating the observational data.</p> <p><i>Autonomy of judgment.</i> The following abilities will be assessed through practical exercises and cases: capacity to distinguish between spontaneous observation and systematic observation applied in developmental psychology; capacity to identify correctly the behaviours to observe; capacity to choose the unit of analysis and the strategy to collect the data, in relations to the aims; capacity to select the correct method to test reliability.</p>

	<p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding and communication skills.</i> The following abilities will be assessed through practical exercises and cases: expertise in using the topic's specialized language.</p> <p><i>Capacities to continue learning.</i> The following abilities will be assessed through practical exercises and cases: Capacity to project, implement and communicate on systematic observations in the field of developmental and educational psychology; capacity to select opportunities and continue learning and training in relation to the topics.</p>
Final exam and grading criteria	Based on the criteria described above, a score on a 30-point scale will be given. The exam will include 30 questions with either 1, 2 or 3 options correct. The number of correct options will be always specified in the question. To obtain score 1, all correct options must be identified. 15, 16 and 17 correct items allow to achieve a mark of 18; 18 correct items allows to achieve a mark of 19 and so on, up to 30 correct items which equals 30 cum laude.
<b>Further information</b>	none