

## COURSE OF STUDY: *PSYCHOLOGY*

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** *2023-24*

**ACADEMIC SUBJECT:** *PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY + TPV FORENSIC EXPERTISE AND ADVICE, 6 + 3 CFU*

General information	
Year of the course	<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	<i>1<sup>st</sup> semester</i>
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	<i>6 + 3</i>
SSD	<i>M-PSI/01</i>
Language	<i>Italian</i>
Mode of attendance	<i>Legally mandatory</i>

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Virtual room	<i>MS Teams code: inbd8id</i>
Office Hours	<i>Tuesday, 12-14 am</i>

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (TPV)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
<i>225</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>110 + 60</i>
CFU/ETCS			
<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<i>The course focuses on forensic psychology and eyewitness testimony, as an interface between academic research and professional application. The main goal of the course is to provide students with an overview of applications of psychology in criminal and civil trials, with a special attention to eyewitness testimony.</i>
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	<i>Knowledge of general psychology topics, with a special consideration for memory, attention, and emotion processes.</i>

<b>Teaching strategies</b>	<i>The course will encompass both lectures and thematic workshops, with ad-hoc contributions of experienced researchers and psychology and legal professionals. The practical activities (TPV) will include reading and comments of forensic cases, Court verdicts, expert testimonies, guidelines for psycho-forensic practice.</i>
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Knowledge of the models of decision making in forensic context</i></li> <li>– <i>Knowledge of the profiles of criminal responsibility</i></li> <li>– <i>Knowledge of the main issues and characteristics of the memory functioning in adulthood and childhood with reference to eyewitness testimony</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Knowledge of the main methods of investigation in forensic psychology and eyewitness testimony</li> </ul>
<b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ability to identify the psychological processes involved in eyewitness testimony and, more generally, in forensic contexts</li> <li>– Knowledge of ethical norms, good practices, scientific and professional protocols most employed in the field of forensic psychology</li> </ul>
<b>Soft skills</b>	<p><i>Making informed judgments and choices:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ability to identify peculiarities and methodological flaws of expert reports in the field of forensic psychology and eyewitness testimony</li> <li>– Ability to conduct a scientific observation of the behaviour of eyewitnesses and other actors of criminal and civil trials</li> </ul> <p><i>Communicating knowledge and understanding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Abilities to express the learned contents in a personal and competent way</li> <li>– Ability to present cases of forensic psychology and eyewitness testimony to both expert and non-expert listeners</li> </ul> <p><i>Capacities to continue learning:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Abilities to read, analyze, and communicate texts concerning scientific research work, verdicts, and expert reports in the field of forensic psychology</li> <li>– Ability to employ knowledge and skills acquired from the whole psychological studies to analyze cases of psycho-forensic relevance</li> </ul>
<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Content knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Neuropsychological assessment in forensic contexts: Methods and instruments.</li> <li>– Autobiographical memory and witness testimony.</li> <li>– Children's capacity to testify in Courts.</li> <li>– False memories.</li> <li>– Malingering, deception, and lie.</li> <li>– Neuroscientific evidence.</li> <li>– Interview techniques.</li> <li>– Scientific protocols and professional practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Texts and readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sartori, G. (2021). <i>La memoria del testimone</i>. Milano: Giuffrè</li> <li>– BPS (2008). <i>Guidelines of memory and the law</i>.</li> <li>– Curci, A., Lanciano, T., Curtotti, D., &amp; Sartori, G. (2020). <i>Lessons for the courtroom from the study of Flashbulb memory: an integrative review</i>. <i>Memory</i>, 28(3), 441-449.</li> <li>– Gatti, D., Stockner, M., Allegrini, E., Grassilli, M. E., Matteucci, V., Mignone, C., &amp; Mazzoni, G. (2022). <i>due volti del falso ricordo: tra distorsioni adattive e confabulazioni, alcune implicazioni per la testimonianza</i>. <i>Giornale italiano di psicologia</i>, 49(1), 137-176.</li> <li>– Otgaar, H., Howe, M. L., Patihis, L., Merckelbach, H., Lynn, S. J., Lilienfeld, S. O., &amp; Loftus, E. F. (2019). <i>The return of the repressed: The persistent and problematic claims of long-forgotten trauma</i>. <i>Perspectives on Psychological Science</i>, 14(6), 1072-1095.</li> <li>– Schacter, D. L. (2022). <i>The seven sins of memory: an update</i>. <i>Memory</i>, 30(1), 37-42.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	<i>Tutorial material (slides, schemes, papers, etc.) will be made available to students during the course.</i>
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="https://www.uniba.it/it/docenti/curci-antoinetta/attivita-didattica">https://www.uniba.it/it/docenti/curci-antoinetta/attivita-didattica</a>

<b>Assessment</b>	
Assessment methods	<p><i>The exam is in oral form.</i></p> <p><i>Intermediate tests will be at mid-course and at the end of the course, consisting of open questions (min. 7), lasting a minimum of 40 minutes. The sum of the results of the intermediate tests constitutes the final grade, however the student can always decide to take the final exam without considering the results of the intermediate tests.</i></p> <p><i>Results of the intermediate tests are published on the teacher's web page anonymously (with the sole indication of the student's registration number). Results of the final exam are communicated via Esse3.</i></p>
Assessment criteria	<p><i>The assessment (intermediate and final) will aim to verify the level of the student's mastery with respect to the contents proposed during the course with a specific consideration for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>– references to theory (knowledge and understanding);</i></li> <li><i>– references to methods and procedures of investigation in forensic psychology and eyewitness testimony (applying knowledge and understanding);</i></li> <li><i>– ability to make conceptual inferences (making informed judgments and choices);</i></li> <li><i>– lexical appropriateness (communicating knowledge and understanding);</i></li> <li><i>– ability to elaborate contents (capacities to continue learning).</i></li> </ul>
Final exam and grading criteria	<p><i>The exam is passed when the grade is greater than or equal to 18/30, with a maximum of 30/30.</i></p>
<b>Further information</b>	
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