

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI BARI "ALDO MORO"

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELLA FORMAZIONE, PSICOLOGIA, COMUNICAZIONE

2018 - 2019

General information	
Academic subject	Psychology of Eyewitness Testimony
Degree course	Clinical Psychology, LS
Curriculum	-
ECTS credits	6
Compulsory attendance	No
Language	Italian

Subject teacher	Name Surname	Mail address	SSD
	Antonietta Curci	antonietta.curci@uniba.it	M-PSI/01

ECTS credit details			
Basic teaching activities	General Psychology	M-PSI/01	6

Class schedule	
Period	1st semester
Year	2nd
Type of class	Lectures Thematic workshops

Time management	
Hours measured	60 minutes
In-class study hours	40
Out-of-class study hours	110

Academy calendar	
Class begins	
Class ends	

Syllabus	
Prerequisite requirements	Receptive and productive linguistic competencies Understanding and reasoning analytic abilities Synthesis and thematic elaboration English language base knowledge Knowledge of general psychology topics, with a special consideration for memory, attention, and emotion processes

<p>Expected learning outcomes (According to Dublin Descriptors)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring knowledge and understanding Knowledge of the main issues and characteristics of the memory functioning in adulthood and childhood Knowledge of the main methods of investigation in psychology of eyewitness testimony • Applying knowledge and understanding Ability to identify the psychological processes involved in eyewitness testimony and, more generally, in forensic contexts Knowledge of ethical norms, good practices, scientific and professional protocols most employed in the field of forensic psychology • Making informed judgments and choices Ability to identify peculiarities and methodological flaws of expert reports in the field of eyewitness testimony Ability to conduct a scientific observation of the behaviour of eyewitnesses and other actors of a criminal trial • Communicating knowledge and understanding Abilities to express the contents learned during the course in a personal and competent way Ability to present cases of eyewitness testimony to both expert and non-expert listeners • Capacities to continue learning Reading, analyzing, and communicating texts concerning scientific research work, verdicts, and expert reports in the field of eyewitness testimony Ability to employ knowledge and skills acquired from the whole psychological studies to analyze cases of eyewitness testimony
<p>Contents</p>	<p>The course focuses on psychology of eyewitness testimony, a discipline that represents an interface between academic research and professional application. After overviewing the principal memory theories, students will be introduced to methods and techniques of investigation in forensic psychology of eyewitness testimony. Furthermore, an overview of applications of psychology in criminal and civil trials will be provided. Practical activities will be done, concerning reading and comments of forensic cases, Court verdicts, expert testimonies, guidelines for psycho-forensic practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models of memory • Attention and memory

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autobiographical memory • Amnesia and interference • Memory and affective processes • Accuracy of emotional memories • Expertises in psychology of eyewitness testimony • Eyewitness reliability • Methods of investigation of eyewitness testimony in forensic contexts • Misleading information, simulation, amnesia • Victim eyewitness testimony • Children eyewitness testimony • Neurosciences and eyewitness testimony
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Course Program	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulotta, G., & Curci, A. (2010). <i>Mente, società e diritto</i>. Milano: Giuffrè. • Gordon, B.N., Baker-Ward, L., & Ornstein, P.A. (2001). Children's Testimony: A Review of Research on Memory for Past Experiences. <i>Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review</i>, 4, 158-181. • Meissner, C. A., Sporer, S. L., & Schooler, J. W. (2007). Person descriptions as eyewitness evidence. In R. Lindsay, D. Ross, J. Read, & M. Tolia (eds.), <i>Handbook of Eyewitness Psychology: Memory for People</i> (pp. 3-34). Lawrence Erlbaum & Associates. • Meissner, C. A., Sporer, S. L., & Susa, K. J. (2008). A theoretical review and meta-analysis for the description-identification relationship in memory for faces. <i>European Journal of Cognitive Psychology</i>, 20, 414-455. • Wells, G. L., Memon, A., & Penrod, S.D. (2006). Eyewitness Evidence. Improving Its Probative Value. <i>Psychological Science in the Public Interest</i>, 7, 45-75.
Notes	
Teaching methods	The course will encompass both lectures and thematic workshops, with ad-hoc contributions of experienced researchers, psychology and legal professionals.
Assessment methods	<p>The final examination 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – references to theory – lexical appropriateness; – references to methods and procedures of investigation in psychology of eyewitness testimony; – ability to make conceptual inferences; – ability to elaborate contents. <p>The final examination will be oral. Exoneration tests will not be proposed.</p>

Further information	Tutorial material (slides, schemes, papers, etc.) will be made available to students during the course.