UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO

Psicologia

General information		
Academic subject	Philosophy and Epistemology of Human Sciences	
Degree course	Master	
Academic Year	2022-2023	
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)		6
Language	Italian	
Academic calendar	Start: October 2022 End: January 2023	
Attendance	Optional	

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Tutoring (time and day)	By agreement (please, email to luigi.pastore@uniba.it), in person or via Skype or Microsoft TEAMS (TEAMS code: 9kxsubr).

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge in the field of logic and argumentation theory, in order to allow a better understanding of explanatory and argumentative strategies in the field of general epistemology and epistemology applied to psychology.
Course prerequisites	None
Contents	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.
Books and bibliography	A- A. Varzi, J. Nolt, D. Rohatyn, *Logic*, McGraw-Hill, New York 1998, chapters 1, 2, 3; B- B- W. Bechtel, *Philosophy of Science: An Overview for Cognitive Science*, Erlbaum, Illsdale (text selection to agree); H.G. von Wright, *Explanation and Understanding*, chap. 1 and 2; W. Bechtel, C.D. Wright, *What is psychological explanation*, in: J. Symons, P. Calvo (Eds.), *The Routledge companion of philosophy of psychology*, Routledge, London 2009, pp. 113-131; P. Railton, *A deductive-nomological model of probabilistic explanation*, in: J.C. Pitt (ed.), *Theories of explanation*, Oxford University

	Press 1988, pp. 119-135. Arguments from Bechtel's, von Wright's, and Railton's works will be discussed within some seminars in cooperation with prof. Athanassios Raftopoulos (University of Cyprus/Visiting Professor at the University of Bari). Language: English. A reader will be available in the library at Department of Education, Psychology, Communication as well as at the internet site of the course.
Additional materials	

Work schedule			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
Hours			
150	40		110
ECTS			
6			

Teaching strategy	
	Traditional lecture, seminar, and group 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 the teacher in class. These activities will not be considered as part of the final evaluation.
Expected learning outcomes	
Knowledge and understanding on:	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.
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	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 as far as psychological literature is concerned).
Soft skills	*Making informed judgements and choices* By developing the capacity to analyze the logical structure of the explanatory models in scientific literature, students will also become capable 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. *Communicating knowledge and understanding* Students will learn to optimize their ability to present their research results or their empirical intervention proposals both in written and oral form. *Capacities to continue learning* 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.
Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	Written exam (open questions and exercises solutions). Language: Italian
Evaluation criteria	Students will be asked to solve logical problems concerning the deductive logic and the theory of argumentation. 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.
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	Considering the above mentioned criteria, a final score in 30-points will be given.
Additional information	