



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

DEPARTMENT	Scienze Psicologiche, Pedagogiche, dell'Esercizio Fisico e della Formazione		
ACADEMIC YEAR	2021/2022		
MASTER'S DEGREE (MSC)	CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY		
SUBJECT	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY		
TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	C		
AMBIT	20969-Attività formative affini o integrative		
CODE	15937		
SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)	M-PSI/08		
HEAD PROFESSOR(S)	LO COCO GIANLUCA	Professore Ordinario	Univ. di PALERMO
OTHER PROFESSOR(S)			
CREDITS	6		
INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)	110		
COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)	40		
PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS			
MUTUALIZATION			
YEAR	2		
TERM (SEMESTER)	1° semester		
ATTENDANCE	Not mandatory		
EVALUATION	Out of 30		
TEACHER OFFICE HOURS	<p>LO COCO GIANLUCA</p> <p>Monday 11:00 13:30 Nel corso dell'anno accademico 2021-2022 il Ricevimento studenti si svolgerà online tramite la piattaforma Teams al seguente link:https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3ad9bc87418a0d4d329b670d706c310c6f%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=4388b30d-89a2-4347-b18b-984719f477b5&tenantId=bf17c3fc-3ccd-4f1e-8546-88fz</p> <p>Thursday 11:00 12:00 Chi volesse svolgere il ricevimento in presenza, può farmi esplicita richiesta tramite e-mail indirizzata a Gianluca.lococo@unipa.it per concordare l'orario disponibile il giovedì dalle 11 alle 12 presso l'edificio 15, 7 piano stanza 014.</p>		

DOCENTE: Prof. GIANLUCA LO COCO

PREREQUISITES	Students must have some preliminary knowledge in the field of research methods, prior starting attending the course. Specifically, students must demonstrate to have basic assumptions of research methods in psychology (independent and dependent variables and their link; the experiment in psychology; validity and reliability of a research). Moreover, some basic knowledge on psychological testing is also required (i.e., what is a psychological test, its validity and reliability, and scoring procedures).
LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>Knowledge of the theoretical aspects and epistemology of the research methods in clinical psychology.</p> <p>Knowledge of the main research design and instruments to assess the effectiveness of clinical interventions.</p> <p>Knowledge of the main results in the field of psychotherapy research.</p> <p>Knowledge of the therapeutic factors and the methods to assess them over the course of the clinical intervention.</p> <p>Understanding of the methods reported in a research article and its main findings.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Applying the research methods to answer to a specific research question.</p> <p>Applying knowledge on the research design to a psychological intervention in clinical psychology.</p> <p>Applying knowledge on the research methodology to assess patient's change over the course of treatment and at follow-up.</p> <p>Making judgements</p> <p>Achieving skills to understand the main findings of a research study and judge its potential pitfalls.</p> <p>Making judgements on the strenght of a research project, analyzing the complexities of the variables in clinical studies; and avoiding a strict reductionism when judging a research dealing with a clinical intervention.</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Showing a communication ability to report the research findings by a study.</p> <p>Showing a communication ability to highlight the key-words of a research study.</p> <p>Showing a communication ability to explain aims and findings of a study dealing the efficacy of a psychological intervention.</p> <p>Lifelong learning skills</p> <p>The students must achieve some learning skills to analyze the scientific literature on a specific clinical topic, and to develop research projects aimed at innovating the knowledge in the clinical field.</p>
ASSESSMENT METHODS	<p>Oral examination. It will consist of an interview, usually lasting from 15 to 30 minutes, to ascertain the student's skills and subject knowledge provided by the course. The candidate will have to answer at least two/three oral questions, dealing with all contents covered by the program, with a reference to the recommended textbooks. Final assessment aims to evaluate whether the student has achieved a good knowledge and understanding of the subject's topics as well as the capacity to establish connections among different topics and issues of the program. The questions will deal with the contents provided in the tetxbooks and on the slides provided during the course.</p> <p>The pass mark will be achieved if the student will show a good knowledge and understanding of the subjects, at least in general terms, and will report a minimal application knowledge regarding the presentation of case studies. Moreover, the students will have to express the subject's contents in a proper way, with a scientific and technical language. Below this threshold, the examination will be insufficient. Grades are expressed in thirtieths. The final score is linked to the following aspects: the student must show a good understanding of the basic knowledge of the subject; he/she has to express the contents in a specialistic language by using technical terms; he/she has to translate the theoretical knowledge in practice; he/she participated to group works with a positive involvement.</p>
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	The course will address the core features of research methods in clinical psychology. Specifically, the course aims to provide students with theoretical and applied knowledge to perform a research study, considering the complexity of variables in clinical contexts and their assessment with suitable methodologies. This goal is consistent with the aims of the master's program, as affirmed in the section A4.a of the SUA model. The students will also be able to use psychological instruments to measure psychosocial variables and constructs, consistently with the goals of the master's program reported in the section A2.a of the SUA. Moreover, the course aims to provide students with the knowledge of the assessment of individual's psychological distress and inovative strategies to detect patient's change during the course of treatment.

	<p>Quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be learned also to assess the therapeutic process and its development in the clinical field, accordingly to the expected skills of the clinical psychologist as described in the section A2.a of the SUA.</p> <p>The knowledge of these instruments will allow students to understand the findings of the scientific literature and to develop a new study in psychotherapy research both with cross-sectional and longitudinal design.</p>
TEACHING METHODS	<p>The teacher will deliver the following activities: frontal lessons and training activities in small groups (5-6 students for each group). The lessons aim to explain the core concepts of the subject, focusing both on theoretical and practical aspects. The teacher will use a power-point presentation in the first phase of each lesson. The slides will be available for downloading by students. In the second phase of the lesson, the teacher will facilitate a discussion on the main contents of the lesson, helping all the students to express their opinions on the pros and cons of the specific topic of the day.</p> <p>A two-days workshop in small groups will be delivered to students in order to prepare a research project on a specific topic, which will be chosen by the group students. The teacher will give students a template, with the different phases of a research project, in order to facilitate the trial. The results of the different groups will be discussed during the following lessons, in order to highlight potential threats to the validity of the research, and improving students' ability to write a good project</p>
SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	<p>Del Corno F., Lo Coco G. (2018). Disegni di ricerca in psicologia clinica. Franco Angeli, Milano.</p> <p>Del Corno F., Rizzi P. (2010). La ricerca qualitativa in psicologia clinica. Raffaello Cortina, Milano.</p> <p>Verranno forniti degli articoli da studiare nel corso delle lezioni. Some research papers will also be provided to students during the lessons.</p>

SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
3	Theoretical basis of research in clinical psychology
3	Empirical and clinical research: is there a link between them?
2	The research designs in clinical psychology
2	Quasi-experiments and correlational studies
2	Cross sectional and longitudinal designs
2	Efficacy and effectiveness of psychological treatments
2	Characteristics of Randomized Clinical Trials
2	Validity of research in clinical psychology
3	Procedures for sampling in clinical studies
3	Quantitative data analyses in clinical psychology
2	How to measure patient's change: the reliable change index
3	Qualitative data analyses in clinical psychology
Hrs	Practice
3	How to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis?
6	How to develop a research project in clinical psychology
Hrs	Workshops
2	Writing a research report in clinical psychology