UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

DEPARTMENT	Culture e società
ACADEMIC YEAR	2023/2024
BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BSC)	SOCIAL WORK
SUBJECT	BEHAVIOUR OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION METHODS
TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	B
AMBIT	50226-Discipline psicologiche
CODE	21997
SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)	M-PSI/04
HEAD PROFESSOR(S)	ZAPPULLA CARLA Professore Ordinario Univ. di PALERMO
OTHER PROFESSOR(S)	
CREDITS	9
INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)	180
COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)	45
PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS	
MUTUALIZATION	
YEAR	2
TERM (SEMESTER)	2° semester
ATTENDANCE	Not mandatory
EVALUATION	Out of 30
TEACHER OFFICE HOURS	**ZAPPULLA CARLA** Tuesday 10:00 11:00 piattaforma teams o stanza del docente (ed. 15, VI piano, stanza 601), previa prenotazione tramite mail (carla.zappulla@unipa.it).

DOCENTE: Prof.ssa CARLA ZAPPULLA

PREREQUISITES	In order to understand the content and the learning objectives of the course, the student must possess knowledge in the field of developmental psychology.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Knowledge and understanding Knowledge and understanding of the models and techniques of observation, with a particular emphasis on theories, tools, detection and coding strategies. Applying knowledge and understanding Application of theoretical and methodological skills to support possible educational settings (school, family, etc.) and research in which the observation is used. Making judgements Acquisition of the capacity to work independently, with a critical and aware approach, demonstrating to know to take operational decisions in relation to the needs and the problems encountered in different situations. Communication Acquisition of skills of description and synthesis and use of an appropriate psychological lexicon. Lifelong learning skills Achieving an expertise in individual study and bibliographic consultation, including through data-base available online. Achieving good ability to apply knowledge to solve concrete proposals situations.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	The assessment of learning will include an oral interview which, starting from the exercises carried out during the course, will be aimed at ascertaining the possession of the disciplinary skills and knowledge required by the course. The candidate will have to answer at least two / three questions posed orally, on all the parts of the program. Final assessment aims to evaluate whether the student has knowledge and understanding of the topics, has acquired the capacity to interpret and independent judgment of concrete cases. The pass mark will be reached when the student shows knowledge and understanding of the subjects at least in general terms, and has minimal application knowledge regarding the presentation of case studies; he/she will also have presentation and argumentative skills as to allow the transmission of his/her knowledge to the examiner. Below this threshold, the examination will be insufficient. The more, however, the student will be able to find own connections between the topics of the course and be able to go into detail on the subject of discipline, the more the assessment is positive. The evaluation will be expressed in thirtieths and will follow the reported schema: Excellent: 30/30 and lode: Excellent knowledge of the subjects; Excellent analytic skills. The student is able to apply the acquired knowledge in order to find solution to the proposed questions. Very good: 28/29: Satisfying mastering of the studied subjects; the student is able to apply the acquired knowledge in order to find solution to the proposed questions. Good: 25/27: basic knowledge of the subjects with a fair ability to autonomously apply the acquired knowledge in order to find solution to the proposed questions. Satisfying: 21/24 The student doesn't own a full knowledge of the studied subjects but demonstrates an acceptable knowledge of the main subjects of the discipline. The student has a limited capacity to identify solution to the proposed problems. Sufficient: 18/20: acceptable minimal knowledge of the basic subjects. The student might not be able to apply the acquired knowledge to find solution of the proposed questions. Insufficient: The student does not own any acceptable knowledge of the discipline and its subjects.
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	The course will address the different ways of doing observation, theories, methods and tools, coding strategies and measurement, the conditions of validity of the observational method. The course will be taking into account the theoretical and methodological aspects and practical aspects.
TEACHING METHODS	- Lessons accompanied by slides downloadable from the site. - Practical exercises, proposed by the teacher, aimed to the application of the techniques and tools of observation. The exercises will be collected by the student and delivered, in paper format, two weeks before the exams (dates will be published on the teacher portal) and then presented for examination, during which will be discussed. The complete list of exercises will be published on the teaching portal at the end of the course.
SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	- Baumgartner E. (2018). L'osservazione del comportamento infantile. Teorie e strumenti. Carocci editore, Roma. ISBN: 9788843094929 - Dispense e materiale fornite dal docente (scaricabili dal sito)

SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
4	Observation and evaluation methods: experimental method, observational, longitudinal and cross-sectional method, test.
6	Introduction to observation: - direct and indirect observation - naturalistic observation and observation under controlled conditions -Method and observational techniques/methods and experimental techniques - The observation myths - The observation fields
7	History of observation, from childhood biographies The theoretical framework of the observational method: - ecological observation - ethological observation - Piaget's observation - psychoanalytic observation
6	Plan of the observational study 1. Who observe: individuals, dyads, groups - Sampling strategies: focal subject, quick scan, sampling behavior 2. What to watch for: events and states - Measures survey: frequency, duration, latency, intensity, density 3. Where to look: natural and artificial contexts; structured and unstructured situations 4. How to observe - Detection Tools - Degree of involvement of the observer
8	Coding scheme: open method (in retrospect)/closed method (a priori) Construction of the coding scheme: inductive procedure/deductive procedure Characteristics of categories of a coding scheme
8	Data collection: -continuous/discontinuous -for events/for time interval
3	Notes on the reliability and validity of the observational method. Sources of error and bias in observational research. Ethics in the observational research
3	To recap: planning an observation research