# Psychology of Atypical Development

## Prof. Elena Ramella

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with a theoretical overview of childhood development, especially in the 0-3 age group, with references to the typical development. In particular, the course will focus on the current frameworks of modern childhood psychopathology defined by age groups and by the developmental trajectories of the child in their relational system. The somatic, relational, affective, cognitive, communicative and reactive behaviour dimensions will be taken into consideration.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Understand recent theories relating to atypical childhood development
* Know the current psychopathological frameworks of early childhood
* Prepare suitable educational contexts for children from birth to three years with atypical development
* Understand the needs of children with deficits
* Acquire tools for working with subjects with atypical development.
* Develop the potential for relationships and communication with children with deficits and with their families
* Develop interventions and educational projects in teams that meet the needs of children with a deficit

***COURSE CONTENT***

The topics that will be covered during the lectures are:

* Introduction to childhood psychopathology
* The tools of educational practice: interview and observation
* Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
* Oppositional defiant disorder
* Conduct disorder
* Mood disorders
* Anxiety disorders
* Learning difficulties
* Eating, evacuation and sleep disorders
* Mental retardation
* The autism spectrum disorder
* Attachment and prolonged grief disorders
* Gender identity disorder
* Psychotic disorder

***READING LIST***

E. Pani- R. Biolcati-A. Sagliaschi, *Psicologia clinica e psicopatologia per l’educazione e la formazione,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009.

Lecture slides

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, guided practical work, analysis of video materials and cases, group discussions on specific topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will be based on an oral interview, designed to verify students’ knowledge of course topics. Students must be able to apply the content studied to situations and cases that will be presented during the interview, using subject-specific language. The appropriate use of specific terminology, the reasoning structure, and the ability to identify conceptual links will also be part of the assessment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The teaching material produced during the course will be made available online for the exam preparation. More detailed information on the parts of the manual to study for the exam will be provided by the lecturer on the Blackboard platform. Course attendance, although not mandatory, is strongly recommended.

There are no content-related prerequisites for attending the course. However, interest and intellectual curiosity for the course topics are expected.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.