**Communication and Language Development Psychology**

Prof. Teresa Rinaldi

***COURSE CONTENT AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Course aims:

* To provide the main theoretical foundations of the development of communication and language both in relation to the individual and in relation to their developmental context, with particular attention to the 0 to 3-year age group considered a key period for the transition from communication to language.
* To investigate the main evolutionary stages of the development of language and its components.
* To strengthen the students' ability to apply their skills through case analysis, in order to identify strengths and criticalities of the various aspects examined from a theoretical point of view.

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

* recognise the main developmental stages of the topics covered, in particular as regards children aged 0 to 3;
* know and understand the specific issues of the psychology of language and communication development;
* read the context and situations and be able to underline their strengths and criticalities in relation to the topics covered.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to deal with the theme of communication and language development in relation to the main theories and stages of development, with particular attention to the 0 to 3-year age group.

The course will address the theme of communication and language from the perspective of Developmental Psychology and will analyse two cases of linguistic and communicative development: bilingualism and irony, in their formations and understandings according to the main theoretical orientations and stages of development. For each topic, main theoretical paradigms, stages of development and reference authors will be considered, with particular attention to the function performed by reference adults with whom the child interacts and who can favour their development.

***READING LIST***

A textbook to choose from:

# - C. Levorato A. Marini (edited by), Il bilinguismo in età evolutiva. Aspetti cognitivi, linguistici, neuropsicologici, educativi, Erikson, Trento 2019.

- Marchetti, A., Massaro, D., Valle, A., *L’ironia in psicologia: Confini, Modalità*, *Applicazioni*, Franco Angeli, Milan 2022.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, exercises, and guided practical work.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral interview focussed on all the topics covered in the textbooks indicated.

The exam will have the following assessment objectives:

* acquisition of knowledge relating to the topics covered;
* ability to apply the reference theories and identify the development stages in order to recognise them in professional and family contexts;
* ability to critically reflect on what has been learnt, making connections with similar issues, applying theoretical notions to concrete phenomena, and reflecting on practical exercises carried out during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for the course.

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.