# Developmental Psychology (Course A)

## Prof. Diego Boerchi

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

The course aims to provide students with theoretical and methodological knowledge to understand the fundamental processes that regulate the individual’s psychological development. The purpose of the course is to explain the key aspects that characterise the individual’s growth in the different contexts where they live. Special attention will be paid to students’ acquisition of the knowledge required to observe and evaluate critical developmental events and for the analysis of risk factors.

*Intended learning outcomes*

*Knowledge and understanding*. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- know and understand the main features of the different steps of the cognitive, emotional, affective, and social development of a minor;

- identify adequate and inadequate parental care – especially from the mother – in terms of well-being and protection of the child;

- recognise the risk factors related to social dysfunctions among children and teenagers;

- distinguish between transitory and deviant dysfunctional behaviours in teenagers, with a focus on criminal conducts.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify the main psychological and educational needs of children and teenagers;

- recognise the risk and/or protection factors that characterise different development paths and contexts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The following topics will be covered:

* the main theories on human development;
* the main research techniques adopted in developmental psychology;
* development, growth and sensory-motor maturation;
* cognitive development;
* development of language, communication and socialisation;
* development of affection and emotions;
* adolescence;
* resilience: theoretical and practical aspects.

***READING LIST***

S. Caravita-L. Milani-D. Traficante, *Psicologia dello sviluppo e dell’educazione,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2018.

L. Murray (a cura di), *Le prime relazioni del bambino. I legami fondamentali per lo sviluppo, Raffaello Cortina,* Milano, 2015. Acquista da VP

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures with the support of real cases and audiovisuals through the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed through a written exam which will focus on the texts and the topics indicated in the faculty guide published in the specific section of the website [www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it). Students may take an oral exam to show in-depth study and to confirm comprehensive understanding upon request of the Exam commission and/or the students themselves, according to the procedures established by the Commission.

The exam is divided into two parts: the one including 20 close-ended and multiple-choice questions; the second one including 2 open-ended questions. Students will have 2 hours to complete the test. The questions will focus on the entire course programme and will be formulated with reference to specific topics.

Assessment criteria: each answer will be assigned a score. Students must obtain a passing mark in both exam parts to pass the exam. In the first part, students must first demonstrate their knowledge of information, distinctions and key concepts of the classic authors of the discipline covered in the textbook; in the second part of the exam students will have to demonstrate that they know how to orient themselves among the topics and key issues discussed in class, with particular reference to Murray’s volume. In this context, emphasis will be placed on the readings suggested during the lessons (classical texts and texts by the lecturer), to be carried out in a timely manner, although favouring the most relevant aspects for the future professional activity. The evaluation will include accuracy of students’ answers, use of proper terminology, and their ability to create a structured and coherent argumentation and identify conceptual links and open issues. The twenty close-ended questions of the first part of the exam will have equal weight and will be evaluated as follows: 0 (no answer), 1 (correct answer) and -1 (wrong answer). The two questions of the second part of the exam will have equal weight and will be evaluated with a score from 0 (no answer) to 5 (excellent answer from all points of view: relevance, accuracy of terminology, coherence and argumentation of the speech, ability to identify conceptual links and open issues).

The final grade will be expressed in thirtieths.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Class attendance is highly recommended.

*Prerequisites.* There are no prerequisites for attending 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.