**Psychological testing**

Prof. Semira Tagliabue; Prof. Bruno Zumbo

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

The course aims to provide students with basic knowledge, both of a theoretical and applicative nature, regarding psychological tests from an international point of view. In particular, the critical points of the theoretical and methodological assumptions related to the construction, validation, use, and interpretation of tests as measurement tools in psychology will be examined, considering the cultural issues involved in those aspects. Moreover, the course also aims to introduce some representative psychological tests, providing the main information and skills related to their administration, scoring, and interpretation.

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

* know the fundamental psychometric properties of psychological tests;
* know the basics to build and standardize a test, calculate the scores, and interpret the results;
* know the main characteristics of the tests to choose the most suitable test in each situation, with specific attention to the ethical and cultural aspects and contexts of application (research, intervention);
* know the principal issues related to the administration, scoring, and interpretation of tests in different cultural contexts.
* know the characteristics of specific personality and intelligence tests

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

* Being able to administer, score and interpret specific tests
* Being able to write a possible report after the administration of a test in a specific context
* Being able to plan a project in which cultural issues

MAKING JUDGEMENTS

* Being able to evaluate the psychometric properties of tests to help the choice of a specific test in specific situations
* Being able to evaluate the cultural issues related to the administration and interpretation of a specific psychological test

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will aim to cover the principal features of psychological testing and the issues related to the role of culture in psychological testing.

Unit 1 - Introduction to psychological tests

- Definition and use of psychological tests

- Ethical principles in the use of tests

- The historical origins of psychological tests

- Classification of tests

- Tests and culture: adaptation of a test; cultural fair tests; cross-cultural tests

Unit 2 – Creation of a test

- Psychometric models

- Construct, operationalization, measurement

- Writing of items

- Adaptation of a test to a different culture

- Refinement of the item pool

- Content validity

Unit 3 – Evaluation of a test

- Reliability, standard error of measurement, and difference

- Validity of the test

- Item analysis

- Cultural issues in the evaluation of a test

Unit 4 - Calibration and standardization

- Statistical norms of a test

- Non-linear standardization

- Linear standardization

Unit 5 – Administration, interpretation, and communication

- Participant, interviewer, and setting

- Cultural issues in test administration

- Cultural issues in test interpretation

- Cultural issues in test communication

Unit 6 - Tests and culture

- Testing people coming from different cultures within the same country

- Challenges for cultural comparisons and interpretations

- Tests with different versions for the different languages (i.e. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory)

- Cultural fair tests (i.e. Raven matrices)

- International assessment: the case of PISA

- Analysis and comment on a case

***READING LIST***

*Psychological testing.* EDUCatt materials 2022.

A complete list of materials will be provided during the first lesson.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be highly interactive and will alternate lectures, supervised practical exercises, and scoring and interpretation of psychological tests.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment will consist of:

1. Multiple choice test
2. Comment on a case
3. Essay about the choice and evaluation of a test
4. Oral interview

Students must demonstrate that they know information, distinctions, and key concepts of each unit and that they can apply their knowledge to provide a thoughtful comments about the topics of the course and on a specific case. Through the oral interview, they will have to demonstrate that they know how to orient themselves between the themes and the basic issues discussed during the course and that they understand them. During the oral interview, they will also discuss the essay they prepared.

The final mark is composed of the sum of the four parts of the assessment: a maximum of 10/30 for the multiple-choice test; a maximum of 7/30 for the comment on a case; a maximum of 8/30 for the essay, a maximum of 5 for the oral interview.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

The student needs a basic knowledge acquired in the following courses: Research methods in psychology, Advanced research methods in psychology; Statistics for psychology.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

*Reception*

Prof. Semira Tagliabue receives students by appointment via e-mail: [*semira.tagliabue@unicatt.it*](mailto:semira.tagliabue@unicatt.it)

Prof Bruno Zumbo receives students by appointment via e-mail: [bruno.zumbo@ubc.ca](mailto:bruno.zumbo@ubc.ca)