**Clinical Research Methods (with Workshop)**

## Prof. Sara Molgora; Prof. Francesco Pagnini

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

The course aims to explore the main components of clinical research, including through the use of concrete examples developed during lessons.

In particular the following topics will be addressed:

– the different phases in which the research process is typically structured (planning, execution and communication of results);

– the nature of quantitative and qualitative research;

– the contexts of intervention in which clinical psychologists operate.

The aim is to provide students with cognitive skills and methodological sensitivity

– in generating clinically relevant questions and/or research hypotheses;

– in empirically verifying these questions through the development of adequate research projects;

– in grasping the scope and operational repercussions of results.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand and put into practice the different research processes used in clinical psychology. In particular, students will be able to carry out research in all its phases, from the design and definition of knowledge objectives, to the communication and dissemination of the results in different contexts and to multiple interlocutors (clients, scientific community, etc.).

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (Prof. Sara Molgora)

– The ideas underlying the research process

– The main research designs (experimental, correlational, and clinical methods)

– Qualitative research: basic knowledge, principles, development conditions, prejudices, etc.

– Sampling (probabilistic sampling and theoretical sampling);

Module 2 (Prof. Francesco Pagnini)

– Different types of measurements and principles of assessment/evaluation;

– The coding process (with specific reference to the clinical assessment phase and therapeutic process);

– Ethics and scientific integrity in clinical research;

– Communication of research results.

***READING LIST***

Kazdin A. (2018), *Metodologia della ricerca in psicologia clinica*, Pearson Italy.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures supplemented with practical tutorials and a workshop. The workshop activity will be organised in sub-groups. Dates and times of the meetings will be communicated by the lecturers at the beginning of the course. During lectures, students will also be invited to carry out an empirical research project.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam. Both students' basic knowledge and their presentation and argumentation skills will be assessed in reference to the various topics addressed during the course (including research examples). In addition, students' critical ability will be assessed through commenting on a number of research articles. The final mark will consider principally the skills demonstrated during the oral exam, but also the in-depth study activities carried out during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Student must possess a basic knowledge of the methodology of psychological research.

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.

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.

Workshop: Clinical Research Methodology

The course includes two workshops. The first workshop aims to provide a method for analysing research articles and undertaking a critical review of the literature. The second workshop aims to provide an overview of the main text analysis software (CAQDAS, *Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software*), with specific in-depth analysis of the T-LAB software.