## **Developmental Psycology**

## Prof. Antonella Marchetti

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

The aim of the course is to explore the main theories of psychological development and provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills for understanding these theories in terms of their historical roots, epistemological implications, and by illustrating them in relation to fundamental developmental issues. Specifically, students will take an in-depth look at the following authors/theoretical approaches: Piaget, Vygotskij, Bruner, Freud and Erikson, the theory of attachment and make comparisons between them in regard to the previously illustrated developmental issues.

Students will also examine and understand relational dynamics between pupil and teacher in reference to the emotional, cognitive, and relational aspects of the relationship itself, in light of the theory of attachment and the theory of developmental systems. They will be analysed in order to make students aware of the importance of this relationship for development, the prevention of developmental risk and the interventions in critical situations. The theoretical and applicative issues relating to the use of social robots in education will be addressed, in the light of the new frontiers of research and reflection in this area.

At the end of the course, students will be able to think critically about the course content, highlighting strengths and limitations of the various psychological theories about development in potential school situations where these skills and knowledge could be applied. The theme of irony and its development as a tool that contributes to an effective social competence will be treated.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The “questions”: fundamental development issues.

Epistemic subject and epistemic objects: Piaget’s constructivism.

The role of the other, developmental education within the Zone of Proximal Development: Vygotskij’s position.

Narration and construction of meaning: Bruner’s contribution.

The advent of Freudian psychoanalysis.

The development in the life-span according to Erikson.

From the dyad to the inter-generational transmission of emotional bond: the attachment theory.

The relationship between pupil and teacher: supporting development and protection against developmental risk according to the attachment theory and the developmental systems theory.

The contribution of social robotics in different application contexts related to education.

***READING LIST***

P.H. Miller, *Teorie dello sviluppo psicologico*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011 (Introduzione e Capitoli relativi a Piaget, Vygotskij, Freud, Erikson).

P.L. Harris, *Psicologia del bambino, Le dodici grandi domande*, Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2023

A textbook to choose from

R. Pianta, La relazione bambino-insegnante. Aspetti evolutivi e clinici, Raffaello Cortina, Milan, 2001 (Chaters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8).

Marchetti, A.,Massaro, D. (edited by), *Robot sociali e educazione. Interazioni, applicazioni e nuove frontiere,Raffaello Cortina,*  Milan, 2023

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of lectures, group discussions, exercises. Furthermore, there will be continuous assessment of students based on self-assessment.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be a final oral examination in which students will be assessed on their knowledge of topics pertaining both the general and the monographic part of the course, and how they are able to interpret and apply this knowledge. Critically analysed theoretical knowledge and skills related to the contextualisation of such knowledge will also be assessed. Students’ ability to make connections between theoretical approaches presented during the course and to argue them accurately and consistently will also be taken into consideration.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, an interest in human development and its the psychological aspects would be an advantage.

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