# Developmental Psychology

Prof. Giovanni Giulio Valtolina

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

The course aims to provide students with the basic theoretical and methodological knowledge for understanding the essential factors regulating the psychological development of the individual. The course therefore aims for students to understand the crucial issues characterising individual growth in various contexts.

*Intended learning outcomes*

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify, with a suitable degree of accuracy, the main characteristics of the various stages of cognitive, social and emotional development in minors. They will also be able to distinguish between appropriate and deficient parenting behaviours, i.e. ineffective in terms of the well-being and protection of the child - particularly on the part of the mother. Students will also be able to discriminate between transitory dysfunctional adolescent behaviours and deviant adolescent behaviours with particular reference to criminal offences.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to tackle issues related to the theory and methodology of developmental psychology, with particular reference to the analysis of factors of continuity and change that contribute to the development of the individual in the environment. There will be a particular focus on mechanisms and psychological dynamics inherent to maternal behaviour during the first stages of development, processes of socialisation, development of social skills and interpretation of adolescent behaviour.

***READING LIST***

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

A. Di Norcia, L. Di Giunta, *Essere genitori efficaci. Programmi di sostegno alle competenze genitoriali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2016.

E. Confalonieri-I. Grazzani, *Adolescenza e compiti di sviluppo*, Unicopli, Milano, 2021.

Details of any further reading material will be provided during lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class supported by use of the Blackboard platform

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written exam based on texts and subjects published on the specific area of the university webpage [www.unicatt.it](http://www.unicatt.it); an oral examination on specific issues to carry out according to the examining board arrangement is possible upon request of the examining board and/or of the student.

Students will be assessed in two parts: the first comprises 20 closed multiple-choice questions; the second comprises two open questions. Students will have two hours to complete the exam. Students will be asked questions on the entire syllabus. Questions will be formulated to address specific topics.

*Assessment criteria*: each question is worth one mark. To pass the overall exam, students must pass both parts. In the first part, students must primarily demonstrate their knowledge of the information, distinctions and key concepts linked to the classic authors in the field of psychology. They must demonstrate that they can navigate the topics and essential issues discussed during lectures, with particular reference to the text by Murray. Accordingly, it is important for students to keep up to date with the reading suggested in lectures (classic texts and the lecturer's texts), albeit with a focus on the most relevant aspects for their professional future. Students will be assessed on: relevance of their answers, their use of specific terminology and their ability to structure reasoned and coherent argumentation and identify conceptual links and open questions. The 20 closed questions from the first part of the exam will have equal weight and be assessed as follows: 0 (unanswered), 1 (correct answer) and -1 (incorrect answer). The two questions from the second part of exam will be equal in weight and will be marked from 0 (unanswered) to 5 (full answer in every respect: relevance, accurate use of terminology, coherence and logical structure, identification of open questions).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As the course is introductory in nature, there are no specific prerequisites in terms of content. Students are nevertheless expected to demonstrate an interest in and intellectual curiosity about psychology.

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.