**-. Atypical Development Psychology: Prevention and Intervention**

Prof.: Annella Bartolomeo – Prof. Cinzia Di Dio

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

The course aims to provide students with a theoretical framework of atypical development psychology in relation to the main contexts in which the child grows and the relationships they experience from birth, with particular attention to early childhood.

The risk and protection factors involved and the main prevention and intervention tools and methodologies, with special reference to the children and the main relational and educational contexts in which they live, will be the subject of specific in-depth analysis both in the first and second modules.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know and understand the specific issues of atypical development in childhood and adolescence, with a particular focus on early childhood;
* grasp the specificities of relational and educational contexts, with particular attention to risk and protective factors;
* use knowledge relating to the observation and recognition of atypical situations in child development and to delve into the main preventive and specific interventions for each of them;
* identify the methods of implementation and planning of preventive interventions with reference to the methods, recipients and professionals involved for each intervention.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is organised in two modules.

**Module 1:** Prof. Annella Bartolomeo

This module addresses the topic of prevention and presents the theoretical foundations relating to atypical development, with reference to the specificities of the different contexts in which the child lives, with special attention to early childhood and the child-caregiver relationship.

The student will be introduced to the theoretical and methodological issues of atypical development psychology, through the most relevant and current orientations. In particular, the module will explore the different characteristics of the child's life contexts in order to highlight their resources in terms of resilience.

Group work and practical exercises will be carried out to delve deeper into the topics addressed and develop planning skills in the preventive field.

**Module 2:** Prof. Cinzia Di Dio

This module of the course will address above all the intervention in atypical development. It will present the main diagnostic frameworks connected to disabilities and developmental disorders and the main tools available and usable both in educational and family or clinical contexts.

Through in-depth studies, videos and case presentations, students will be able to become familiar with examples taken from practice in different educational contexts. Students will also be able to test their skills and acquire the main tools to critically evaluate the different intervention perspectives. The module will include group exercises and encourage the sharing of one's experiences gained in the educational field.

For each topic, the module will consider the relationship between the child/young person, the family, and the different educational realities in which they live, with particular reference to the emotional relationships with the main caregivers.

***READING LIST [[1]](#footnote-2)***

***For module 1***

* P. Venuti, *Percorsi evolutivi: forme tipiche e atipiche*, Carocci, Rome, 2007.
* N. Migdely - I. Vrouva, *La mentalizzazione nel ciclo di vita. Interventi con bambini, genitori e insegnanti.* Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milan, 2014 (ch. 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11).[*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/la-mentalizzazione-nel-ciclo-di-vita-interventi-con-bambini-genitorie-insegnanti-9788860306388-205302.html)

Presentations and articles provided during lectures and available on the Blackboard platform.

***For module 2***

* M. Zanobini - M. C. Usai, *Psicologia della disabilità e dei disturbi dello sviluppo. Elementi di riabilitazione e d'intervento,* *VIII Ediz. Ampliata*, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2019.[*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/psicologia-della-disabilita-e-dei-disturbi-dello-sviluppo-elementi-di-riabilitazione-e-dintervento-9788891787286-674330.html)
* Marchetti - E. Bracaglia - G. Cavalli - A. Valle, *Comportamenti a rischio e autolesivi in adolescenza. Il questionario RTSHIA di Vrouva, Fonagy, Fearon, Roussow.* FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2013.[*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/comportamenti-a-rischio-e-autolesivi-in-adolescenza-9788820415983-182549.html)

Presentations and articles provided during lectures and available on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes frontal lessons to present the various theoretical topics and some in-depth research. It will offer students video content, guided practical exercises in small groups and elements for discussion on the most current topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam aimed at assessing knowledge and understanding of the course contents, clarity of presentation and ability to connect among the different topics addressed, applied to different contexts.

The oral interview includes a first part relating to the assessment of the knowledge and skills of the content of the first module and a second part relating to the assessment of the knowledge and skills of the content of the second module. The final mark is the result of the average of the assessment of the two interviews.

Assessment objectives:

* acquisition of knowledge relating to the psychology of atypical development, prevention, and intervention
* understanding of key concepts
* ability to apply adequate methods and interpersonal sensitivity in relationships with different interlocutors and with other professionals;
* ability to reflect critically on what has been learned, making connections with similar topics, applying theoretical notions to concrete phenomena, reflecting on exercises performed during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for attending the course. However, previous preparation in Life Cycle Psychology and/or Childhood Psychology may facilitate the understanding of some concepts.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

1. The textbooks indicated in the reading list can be purchased from University bookstores; they can also be purchased at other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)