



Course Syllabus

Degree Programme in Medicine and Surgery

Academic Year 2026 / 2027

INTEGRATED COURSE (I.C.): Psychiatry

NUMBER OF CFU (ECTS credits): 5

SSD (Academic Discipline Code): MED/25, M-PSI/08

COORDINATOR OF THE I.C.: [Stefania Chiappini](#)

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MODULE 1: Psychiatry

NUMBER OF CFU (ECTS credits): 3

SSD (Academic Discipline Code): MED/25

LECTURER: [Stefania Chiappini](#) (2 CFU); [Giovanni Martinotti](#) (1 CFU)

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MODULE 2: Clinical Psychology

NUMBER OF CFU (ECTS credits): 2

SSD (Academic Discipline Code): M-PSI/08

LECTURER: [Guyonne Rogier](#)

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PREREQUISITE COURSES

None required.

PREREQUISITES

Although there are no formal prerequisite courses, students are expected to have a basic knowledge of biology and human physiology, as well as fundamental concepts of medical pathology and pharmacology, in order to successfully follow the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to provide students with the fundamental principles of psychopathology and the history of psychiatry, together with an in-depth understanding of the pathophysiology, clinical features, nosological classification, and treatment of the major psychiatric disorders. An overview of the organization of community-based psychiatric services will also be provided.

The degree programme prepares graduates to work in public and private institutions, healthcare organizations, and companies, typically within multidisciplinary teams in the field of psychological sciences and techniques. The educational objectives include the acquisition of systematic and up-to-date knowledge in clinical psychology, as well as in the biological sciences (molecular, metabolic, and physiological) and clinical disciplines (neurology, psychiatry, and neurobiology) that underpin the understanding of mental processes. The programme also encompasses the anthropological, epistemological, and ethical disciplines that are essential for understanding the cultural and professional dimensions of interventions aimed at promoting, maintaining, and restoring mental health and well-being across the lifespan in both public and private settings.

The curriculum enables students to acquire practical and applied professional competencies, including psychiatric assessment and consultation for individuals with psychiatric, cognitive, and emotional disorders. It also provides updated knowledge and skills in communication and information management, together with professional experience in services directed toward individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities within the scope of mental health practice. Furthermore, the course provides the theoretical and practical knowledge required to establish and effectively manage the therapeutic relationship.

Graduates will be qualified to work within healthcare institutions, medical and psychiatric services, public healthcare organizations, and private third-sector agencies as psychiatrists.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The expected learning outcomes are consistent with the general provisions of the Bologna Process and the specific requirements of Directive 2005/36/EC. They are aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (Dublin Descriptors) as follows.

DD 1: Knowledge and understanding

- a thorough understanding of the fundamental concepts of descriptive psychopathology;
- knowledge of the historical development of psychiatry and clinical psychology, including the major theoretical models and schools of thought, as well as the definition and professional role of the psychiatrist;
- systematic, practical, and applied knowledge of the major psychiatric disorders, including their nosological classification and clinical presentation;
- knowledge of psychopharmacological, psychotherapeutic, and psychosocial interventions for psychiatric disorders;
- knowledge of the organization of community mental health services and psychiatric care systems;

- knowledge of the principal psychological and interpersonal dimensions involved in the helping relationship;
- knowledge of the main theoretical models explaining burnout and resilience among mental health professionals.

DD 2: Applying knowledge and understanding

- recognize and diagnose the major psychiatric, psychological, cognitive, and emotional disorders;
- describe the principal psychiatric disorders from both clinical and psychopathological perspectives;
- identify appropriate acute and long-term treatment strategies;
- plan the psychiatric assessment process and formulate clinical cases;
- communicate and manage information effectively within mental health services directed toward individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;
- work effectively in public and private institutions, organizations, and healthcare services, either as employed professionals or in private practice, typically within multidisciplinary mental health teams;
- evaluate the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of mental health interventions;
- apply updated communication skills, information management tools, and professional competencies within mental health services directed toward individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;
- apply systematic and up-to-date knowledge in clinical psychology to design interventions aimed at promoting, maintaining, and restoring mental health and well-being across the lifespan for individuals, families, groups, communities, institutions, and workplaces;
- observe and analyse the main dynamics of the therapeutic relationship (including ruptures, successful interactions, and repair processes) and plan strategies to strengthen and improve the therapeutic alliance;
- maintain continuous professional development by keeping up to date with advances in the scientific knowledge related to the topics covered in the course;
- identify signs of burnout in themselves and others and implement strategies to promote resilience;
- recognize and respond appropriately to signs of self-directed and/or hetero-directed aggression in patients.

DD3: Making judgements

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to formulate informed and independent evaluations of the topics covered during the course.

DD4: Communication skills

- use specialist psychiatric and psychological terminology accurately and appropriately;
- employ the principal terminology of descriptive psychopathology correctly and consistently.

DD5: Learning skills

Students will have acquired the learning skills and methodologies necessary to further develop and update their knowledge and competencies in psychiatry, including through the critical appraisal of the scientific literature.

SYLLABUS**Syllabus MODULE 1: Psychiatry**

- Introduction to Psychiatry
- History of Psychiatry and the Organization of Psychiatric Services
- Fundamentals of Psychopathology
- Major Psychiatric Disorders:
 - Schizophrenia
 - Mood Disorders
 - Anxiety Disorders
 - Obsessive–Compulsive Disorder
 - Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders
 - Personality Disorders
 - Hysteria and Somatic Symptom Disorders
 - Eating Disorders
 - Substance Use Disorders and Behavioural Addictions
- Organic Psychiatry and Differential Diagnosis
- Psychiatric Emergencies
- Legal and Forensic Aspects of Psychiatry
- Psychiatric Treatments:
 - Principles of Psychopharmacology
 - Psychotherapeutic and Psychosocial Interventions
 - Neuromodulation Techniques in Psychiatry

Syllabus MODULE 2: Clinical Psychology

- Historical and Epistemological Foundations of Clinical Psychology
- Contemporary Models, Perspectives, and Applications of Clinical Psychology
- Assessment in Clinical Psychology: Clinical Interview, Questionnaires, and Behavioural Assessment
- Fundamentals of Developmental Psychopathology
- The Therapeutic Relationship and Therapeutic Alliance
- Cultural Competence in Mental Health

- Burnout
- Assessment and Management of Self-Directed and Other-Directed Violence

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of face-to-face lectures combined with participatory teaching activities (e.g., classroom exercises based on clinical cases). Teaching sessions range from two to four hours according to the academic timetable. Lectures include theoretical instruction and, where appropriate, seminars on selected topics. The course is delivered entirely in person. Attendance is mandatory. The course consists of **50 hours of classroom-based teaching and 2.5 hours of practical exercises for each CFU (ECTS credits)**.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

Students' knowledge and competencies will be assessed through a 90-minute written examination, consisting of: 20 multiple-choice questions (10 in Psychiatry and 10 in Clinical Psychology); one open-ended question based on a clinical case requiring the identification of the psychiatric diagnosis and the appropriate pharmacological treatment; one open-ended question based on a clinical case requiring case formulation from the perspective of clinical psychology.

Permitted materials: None.

Grading grid for the written examination:

Fail	Significant deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in knowledge and understanding of the course content.
18–20	Barely sufficient knowledge and understanding, with possible inaccuracies; adequate independent judgement.
21–23	Routine knowledge and understanding of the course content; satisfactory analytical skills.
24–26	Good knowledge and understanding of the course content; good analytical skills.
27–29	Comprehensive knowledge and understanding; strong analytical and synthesis skills; good independent judgement.
30–30L	Excellent knowledge and understanding of the course content; outstanding analytical, synthesis, and critical judgement skills.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Students may attend office hours with the instructors of the integrated course. Meetings are available by appointment and should be arranged via email.

READING MATERIALS

Texts MODULE 1 – Psychiatry

- Martinotti G. Handbook of Psychopathology. Edizioni Fila 37, 2023.
- Siracusano A., Niolu C. Manuale di Psichiatria, 3rd edition. Il Pensiero Scientifico Editore, 2023. ISBN: 9788849007541.
- Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry, 12th North American Edition.

Texts MODULE 2 – Clinical Psychology

The core material will be provided by the instructor during the course (lecture slides). Students who wish to explore the topics covered in greater depth are advised to study the following materials:

- Trull, T. J., Prinstein, M. J. (2013). Clinical Psychology (8th edition). Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Ebook. (Chapters 2, 5, and 12)
- Barlow, D. H. (Ed.). (2014). The Oxford Handbook of Clinical Psychology: Updated Edition. Oxford University Press. (Chapters 12, 33, 34, and 38)
- Hunsley, J., & Lee, C. M. (2017). Introduction to Clinical Psychology. John Wiley & Sons. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS (SLD)

In accordance with current Italian legislation (Laws No. 104/1992, No. 17/1999, and No. 170/2010) and the University's policies on inclusion, students with certified disabilities or Specific Learning Disorders (SLD) are entitled to appropriate compensatory measures and reasonable accommodations (e.g., additional examination time, concept maps, or equivalent assessment methods). Assessment accommodations are agreed upon by the course instructor, the student, and the University's designated support office, while ensuring that the intended learning outcomes and academic standards remain equivalent.