



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Principi e Fondamenti del Servizio Sociale

1920-1-E3901N008

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#### Learning objectives

The course introduces the analysis of social work as academic discipline and as a profession. It describes its historical-philosophical-sociological underpinning, the system of values, the ethical-operative principles, and the theoretical orientations that constitute the foundation of social work scientific approach.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Know the course contents

Exploit the learned techniques for solving personal and personal issue

Re-elaborate acquired info and data showing critical thinking

Articulate (in oral and written form) thoughts, ideas, and professional actions as key competencies for a social worker

Have an attitude able to sustain lifelong learning of social work know-how

#### Competencies

This course will assist students in developing the following competencies

Know main definitions of social work as discipline and profession

Know professional identity and legal references

Know social work historical evolution (with focus on Italian one)

Know social work ethical-philosophical-sociological underpinning

Know deontological code values and rules

Know and understand social work theoretical basis

Know social worker functions and activities

Know the methodological process

Understand social worker specific nature

Put social work evolution into historical perspective by identifying the elements that forged its current definitions as discipline and profession

Connect social work evolution with the transformations happened in current social interventions

Identify inside deontological code the key values of social work profession

Connect theory and practice

Learn how to apply methodological process

## **Contents**

National and international definitions of social work, and their critical analysis

Profession identity

Social work history in social-political context

Functions and activities of social worker

Profession ethics, values and deontology: deontology code. In-depth analysis and its applications. Ethical dilemmas

Social work theoretical foundation: social work models

The methodological process and its practical implementation

## **Detailed program**

The course is divided into two modules:

The first module deals with the theme of social work identity by analyzing national and international definitions as result of the evolution of social work from the origins to its development in the Italian social-political context. The social profession and professions (knowledge workers): definition, attributes, end professional identity construction.

Social worker profession: functions and activities articulated following trifocal approach, focused at the same time on institutional, social and professional mandates. Illustrate theoretical basis of social work, and describe a few reference models, beside the methodological process employed in social work

The second module analyzes the deontological codes focusing on functions, aims, structure, and specific contents. By making connections with actual activities of social workers, ethical dilemmas of the profession are tackled

The topics are explored in connection with “guida al tirocinio”

## **Prerequisites**

Social culture basics, good logic skills, synthesis skills, writing and oral communication.

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures, group discussions, group and individual activities, video and image projection, testimonials

## **Assessment methods**

The verification of learning will take place through a written test and an oral test:

- written exam based on the reference texts, aimed at evaluating both the learning of the contents by the student and his capacity for re-elaboration and argumentation. They will give rise to evaluations of excellence: the possession of the required contents of the discipline and of good skills for further study; the ability to link the main topics covered in the course and the use of an appropriate language with respect to the specific nature of the discipline. They will give rise to discrete evaluations: the possession by the student of a good knowledge of the contents and of a good ability to link the topics covered, the use of an appropriate language. Sufficient assessments will be carried out: the achievement of a minimal knowledge of the subjects dealt with by the student, even if there are some training gaps with difficulties in the connection of knowledge and the use of a sufficiently appropriate language. They will give rise to negative evaluations: difficulty of orientation of the student with respect to the topics addressed in the exam texts, training gaps and the use of inappropriate language.

- oral exam useful to test which the degree of internalization, critical analysis and practical application of the code of ethics. The student will be asked to analyze a part of the deontological text. It will give rise to excellent evaluation: the ability to apply practical ethical principles, the ability to critically analyze content and manage ethical dilemmas. It will give rise to a discrete evaluation: an acceptable practical application of the contents of deontology, the possession of a good critical capacity and the identification and management of potential ethical dilemmas. It will give rise to a sufficient assessment: sufficient practical application of the deontological contents, sufficient critical competence and the identification of ethical dilemmas with little management capacity. It will give rise to an insufficient evaluation: the insufficient contextualization of the contents of deontology, the insufficient critical capacity and the analysis of ethical dilemmas.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

### **Mandatory texts**

G. Pieroni, Maria Dal Pra Ponticelli, "Introduzione al servizio sociale. Storia, principi, deontologia", Carocci Faber, 2005

E. Neve, "Il servizio sociale. Fondamenti e culturali di una professione", Carocci Faber, 2017

Sarah Banks e Kirster Nørh (a cura di), "L'etica in pratica nel servizio sociale. Casi e commenti in prospettiva internazionale", Erickson, 2014

Il Codice Deontologico dell'Assistente Sociale

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