UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Principles of The Social Service

2223-1-E3901N008

Learning objectives

- Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the main paradigms underlying different definitions of the social work role
- knowing the theoretical and ethical foundations of contemporary social work
- Learning to apply some of the theoretical and ethical foundations of social work in the different stages of the methodological process
- Knowing and be able to critically reflect on the ethical principles expressed in the Code of Ethics of the Social Worker and the International Declaration of Ethical Principles
- Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the transformations of social work and social services in history
- Knowing how to apply some concepts for the critical analysis of the relationship between social service and welfare institutions
- Knowing the legislation that established the social work profession in Italy

Contents

- Social work theories and ethical principles in action in different stages of the methodological process
- Promoting social justice in practice by integrating the micro and macro levels: the lens of the anti-oppressive social work approach
- The Italian Code of Ethics, the International Declaration of Ethical Principles.
- Social work in history: charity, assistance, care, social justice
- The positioning of social work within the welfare system, between the organizational mandate and the professional mandate

Detailed program

This course introduces students to the key theoretical concepts and ethical concerns relevant to social work practice. One of the assumptions is that theories and values does not exist in a vacuum, they are constructed in particular socio-cultural contexts, and assume contextualized meanings influenced by the way in which social workers apply them in concrete situations.
The first part of the course considers the historical evolution of social work up to contemporary paradigms. Different historic and contemporary perspectives are discussed as a means of revisiting the frequently asked question of what social work is.
The second part works at the interface of social work theory and ethical principles to consider the factors that at, the micro and the macro levels, frame the practical context in which social workers operate. Critical theories are used to understand the concepts of power, oppression and privilege, and to foster critical thinking about the values of empowerment and social justice. Humanistic and relational theories are discussed as the foundations to implement a participatory, person-centred and non-judgmental approach to direct practice social work with individuals and communities.
The anti-oppressive practice approach is used as a lens to critically analyse personal values, experiences and assumptions, as well as social services policies and practices that align with or diverge from the Italian Social Work Code of Ethics and the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles, originating ethical and practical dilemma.

Prerequisites

Adequate skills in logic, communication and writing in Italian.

Teaching methods

During the lessons, the discussion of the main theoretical concepts will alternate with individual and group assignments, to test the application of concepts to professional practice.
Case studies are used as a tool to activate critical reflection on theoretical and ethical foundations that guide the professional action. The photovoice technique is used as a tool to develop critical thinking in reflecting on the ethical principles that guide social service.

Assessment methods

The final written exam consists of three open-ended questions on the topics covered during the lessons and the mandatory texts listed below.
The following aspects will be assessed:

- the level of knowledge and ability to apply in an integrated way theoretical concepts and ethical principles discussed
- the quality of writing: the use of professional language consistent with the contents covered during the lessons and in the texts; clarity of exposition (relevant information, set out in an organized and concise manner)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Canevini M., Neve E. (2018). Etica e deontologia del servizio sociale. Carocci. (Capitoli 3,10,11)

Fargion S. (2009). Il servizio sociale. Storia, temi, dibattiti. Editori Laterza. (Capitoli 1,2,3)

Filippini S (2021). Nuovo Codice Deontologico dell'assistente sociale: le responsabilità professionali. Carocci. (Capitolo 2)

Sanfelici M. (2017). I modelli del servizio sociale. Carocci. (Capitoli 1,2, paragrafi 3.4, 3.5,3.6, 9.3 e 9.4)

Articoli in riviste

Mc Laughing (2009). What's in a name. 'Client', 'Patient', 'Customer', 'Consumer', 'Expert by Experience', 'Service User'—What's Next? British Journal of Social Work (2009) 39, 1101–1117

Allegri, E. Sanfelici, M (2023). L'approccio anti-oppressivo nel servizio sociale. Teoria in azione. La Rivista di Servizio Sociale, 1, 10-21.

Raineri M., Calcaterra V. (2017). Riconoscere e contrastare le discriminazioni nel lavoro sui casi. Per un social work anti-oppressivo. Lavoro Sociale, 17,4, 95-112.

Il Codice Deontologico dell'Assistente Sociale (2020)

IASSW, IFWS. Ethics in social work - Statement of principles.

Dispense e materiali caricati sulla piattaforma E-learning

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS