UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Principles of The Social Service

2425-1-E3901N008

Learning objectives

Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the main paradigms underlying the definitions of the role of social service
Knowing the theoretical and ethical foundations of contemporary social work
Learning the ability to apply in an integrated manner some of the theoretical and ethical foundations of social service in the different stages of the methodological process
Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the ethical principles expressed in the Code of Ethics of the Social Worker and in the International Declaration of Ethical Principles
Knowing and being able to critically reflect on the transformations of social work in history

Contents

What is social work? Why social work? Social service definitions in the national context
Promoting social justice in practice: social service skills and the lens of anti-oppressive social work
Social work in history: charity, care, social justice
The positioning of social work in welfare systems, between organisational and professional mandate

Detailed program

The course will present the key theoretical concepts and ethical issues relevant to the practice of social work, with the aim of raising awareness of the theoretical assumptions and values that guide professional practice and how these have changed throughout history and in the present day.
The first part of the course reconstructs the history and the roots of the values and organisation of social services, with the aim of answering the question of what social services are and what their foundations are.

The second part of the course, on the other hand, focuses on the skills and perspectives of social work, starting from critical theories and the anti-oppressive approach, and the question of reflexivity as a practice of social work, in close dialogue and relation with the Code of Ethics of Social Workers and the Global Declaration of Ethical Principles of Social Work.

Prerequisites

none

Teaching methods

The lessons are structured by alternating the discussion of theoretical concepts with group exercises, useful for experimenting with the application of the concepts to professional practice.
The didactic will be approximately 60% expositive, and the remainder will be interactive

Assessment methods

Oral examination aimed at testyfing t knowledge of the principles and fundamentals of social work.
The exam will consist of two open questions to be answered. A satisfactory answer to both questions is required to pass the exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Fargion S. (2009), Il servizio sociale. Storia, temi, dibattiti, Laterza (capitoli 1,2,3,4)
Bertotti T., Fazzi L., Rosignoli A. (2021), Il servizio sociale: le competenze chiave, Carocci (capitoli 1,2,3,4,6,7)
Scarscelli D. (2022), Controllo e autodeterminazione nel lavoro sociale. Una prospettiva antioppressiva, Meltemi

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS