UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Policy Practice nel Lavoro Sociale

2425-1-F8701N085

Learning objectives

-To apply theoretical concepts useful for the critical analysis of policies that impact the quality of social work and the organization of social services.

- To apply concepts, strategies and tools for social work policy practice

Contents

- Social Policy and Social Work: An Overview
- Social justice in social work
- Neoliberal policies and the impact on social work
- Social workers as streel-level bureaucrats
- Critical reflection as key for social work policy practice
- The political role and policy engagement of social workers
- Conditions and strategies for social work policy practice

Detailed program

This course aims to build a space for critical reflection on possible frameworks and strategies to analyze and influence policies that impact on the quality of social work. On the one hand, social workers are asked to promote social change and social justice by working in alliance with people and trying to tackle the structural problems that affect their quality of life; on the other hand, the literature highlight a scarce confidence of several social workers as regard to their actual possibility of affecting policies. The problematic relationship between professional practice and policy in social work has been present for decades, but it seems to have worsened in recent times, in relation

to local and global social problems (poverty, migration, collective emergencies, etc.) and the ways in which international organizations and national and local governments address them, with the more recent prevalence of technocratic and neoliberal ideologies that promote processes of depoliticization.
against this backdrop, the aim of this course is twofold: a) to foster a critical reflection on social problems that emerge from the intersection of the local, national and international levels and their impact on the experience of citizens, and particularly the most ooppressed groups b) to apply concepts and tools social work policy practice , necessary to inform transformative action in services, in relation to what emerges from the interaction with people's life worlds.

Prerequisites

A consolidate knowledge of social work foundations.

Teaching methods

Teaching involves :

- 28 hours conducted in interactive in-presence mode;
- 21 hours conducted in interactive in-presence mode, with activities to construct and analyze case studies

Assessment methods

The final exam involves the construction and discussion of a policy advocacy or policy practice project in social work.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Guidi R.; Mordeglia S (2024) (a cura di). La policy practice nelservizio sociale italiano.Angeli, Milano. Capitoli 1, 2, 3.
Sanfelici M (2024). Fondamenti del servizio sociale anti-oppressivo.Carocci. Capitoli 2 e 6
Jansson B (2017). Becoming An Effective Policy Advocate (8th Edition). Cengage Learning.
Aviv, I., Gal, J., & Weiss-Gal, I. (2021). Social workers as street-level policy entrepreneurs. Public Administration, 99(3), 454–
468.
Feldman, G. (2020). Making the connection between theories of policy change and policy practice: A new conceptualization.
The British Journal of Social Work, 50(4), 1089–1106

Lettureconsigliate:
Cummins L., Byers K, Pedrick L. (2023). Policy Practice for Social Workers An Ethic of Care Approach.

Colby, I. C. (2018). The handbook of policy practice. Oxford University Press.

Sustainable Development Goals

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