UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Laboratorio 6 - Famiglia e servizio sociale

2526-3-E3901N062

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Acquire foundational knowledge about the role of the family within the context of social services, understanding the social, cultural, and legal transformations that affect family dynamics and emerging needs. Explore key family welfare policies and models of socio-educational and socio-health intervention with families.

Applying knowledge and understanding
Be able to recognize and analyze complex family situations by applying tools and methodologies of social intervention in multiprofessional contexts. Use theoretical knowledge to co-design support actions for families, assessing needs, resources, and institutional frameworks.

Making judgements
Develop the ability to critically reflect on intervention models targeting families, integrating ethical, relational, and institutional dimensions. Be capable of evaluating the implications of operational choices and support mechanisms in relation to the protection of rights and family well-being.

Communication skills
Strengthen the ability to communicate effectively with families, colleagues, and institutional stakeholders, using professional and empathetic language that respects diversity. Develop skills for managing written and oral communication in interviews, team meetings, networks, and documentation processes.

Learning skills
Foster reflective learning through workshop experiences, encouraging a research-oriented and continuous learning attitude. Support the development of professional awareness and the ability to transfer acquired knowledge into diverse operational contexts.

Contents

The workshop explores transformations in contemporary families and their interactions with social, educational, health, and judicial services. It provides tools for analysis and intervention in complex family contexts. Activities include practical exercises, group work, and case studies.

Detailed program

The workshop explores, from a sociological and operational perspective, the main transformations of the contemporary family and its role within welfare systems. The content is aimed at developing analytical and intervention skills in complex and multidimensional family contexts.

Key topics include:

- Transformations of the family: pluralization of family models, crisis of traditional structures, new forms of vulnerability.
- Families and services: relationships between families and the social, educational, health, and judicial service systems.
- Assessment of family needs: tools and methods for analyzing relational dynamics and risk/protection factors.
- Approaches and intervention methodologies: social work with families, mediation, empowerment, and networking.
- Specific themes: mental health in the family, young caregivers, family–school relationships, families in judicial proceedings.
- Experiences and good practices: case analysis, meetings with expert witnesses, field observations.

The workshop combines participatory lectures, group work, practical exercises, and collective reflection sessions, with the goal of bridging theory and professional practice.

Prerequisites

Participation in the workshop requires a basic understanding of how social services function and the main welfare policies. Equally important is a willingness to actively engage, through peer interaction, reflection on proposed experiences, and conscious participation in practical and collaborative activities.

Teaching methods

The workshop is based on active and participatory teaching, combining interactive lectures, group work, practical exercises, case analyses, and reflective discussions. Activities are designed to foster direct student engagement and to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

Full attendance (without late arrivals or early departures) at a minimum of 6 out of 8 in-person sessions is required. This is an essential condition for acquiring the expected competencies and for the validation of the workshop.

Assessment methods

Learning will be assessed through ongoing evaluation during the workshop, based on active participation in activities and the assessment of individual or group assignments completed throughout the course.

The competencies assessed include:

- Ability to apply acquired knowledge and tools to concrete cases and simulated professional situations.
- Teamwork skills, including cooperation and active contribution to group activities.
- Critical and reflective thinking, both in theoretical analysis and in relation to workshop experiences.
- Communication skills, demonstrated in both oral and written presentations and in peer interactions.
- Autonomy in judgment, reflected in the personal re-elaboration of course content.

Evaluation criteria will consider the quality of participation, the relevance and coherence of the submitted work, the ability to argue and reflect critically. The final assessment will be expressed as pass/fail.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Advised books:

A. Sicora e S. Fargion (a cura di) Costruzioni di genitorialità su terreni incerti. Quale ruolo per il servizio sociale?, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2023
(ed. digit.: 2023, doi: 10.978.8815/411365)

L. Gui, 2024, Fare i genitori senza certezze. Genitorialità e Servizio sociale, Franco Angeli, Milano https://www.darwinbooks.it/doi/10.978.8815/411365

Teaching materials will be made available to students during the lessons.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS