



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Politica Sociale

2526-2-E3901N046

Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

Acquire in-depth knowledge of the social welfare system, including its objectives, structures, and instruments. Understand the historical evolution and comparative models of welfare, as well as the social, demographic, and economic changes that have shaped social protection and promotion policies in recent decades.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding

Critically analyze key policies and measures in the field of social welfare, with particular attention to poverty, social inclusion, family support, long-term care, and marginalization.

Develop operational and analytical skills to assess the effectiveness and fairness of welfare interventions across different institutional and territorial contexts.

Independent Judgment

The course fosters the ability to critically interpret data, documents, and social phenomena related to the functioning of the welfare system, with a focus on social inequalities, access to services, and the tensions between universalism and selectivity.

It also promotes reflection on the ethical and social implications of policy choices in the welfare domain.

Communication Skills

Students will be able to effectively communicate concepts, data, and analyses related to social welfare, adapting their language to different audiences (professionals, policymakers, citizens) within an interprofessional and multidisciplinary framework.

Learning Skills

The course encourages the ability to independently keep up to date with developments in welfare policies and innovations in social intervention models, promoting a reflective and critical approach to both academic and professional experiences.

Contents

- Key social policy ideas and concepts: social policy, welfare state, welfare mix, social need, risks, and benefits
- The development of the welfare state
- The different welfare regimes in Europe and the main feature of the Italian regime
- Social policy provision against the “new” social risks
- The development of social policy at local level

Detailed program

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of social policy and welfare states. In particular, it

- provides the theoretical foundations (key ideas and concepts) of social policy and the welfare state
- explores the nature and extent of welfare provision in different European countries
- analyses the main features of the Italian welfare regime
- critically explore shifts in welfare provision and the nature of social policy responses to “new social risks”
- examines the development of social policy at local level

Prerequisites

Good logical reasoning ability; good comprehension and communication skills; basic knowledge of social work and social policy.

Teaching methods

Lectures (70%); exercises (individual or group work) (10%); group discussions, both in class and online via the course e-learning platform (20%). Classes will be held in person.

Assessment methods

Written exam (max 100 minutes), with the opportunity to take an integrative oral exam.

The written exam contains:

- 5 closed questions
- 5 short-answer questions (definitions, concepts, theories)
- 1 essay-type question

Each exam, written or oral, will be marked based on the ability to communicate effectively concepts, theories and empirical evidence by using the appropriate scientific language.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Ranci C. e Pavolini E. (2015), Le politiche di Welfare, Il Mulino, Bologna [with the exception of the following chapters: VI "Le politiche di sostegno alle transizioni istruzione-lavoro; "X "Politiche attive del lavoro e apprendimento permanente"].

Gori C., a cura di, (2022), Le politiche del Welfare Sociale, Mondadori, Milano [only the following chapters: "1. Le politiche del welfare sociale; 2. I servizi alla persona; 8. Il welfare mix"].

Additional compulsory reading materials will be indicated and uploaded at the beginning of the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
