UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Policies - A-L

2526-1-E1902R002-AL

Course title

SOCIAL SERVICES POLICIES - A-L

Topics and course structure

The course aims to provide general notions on the topics of Social Policies and the Welfare State. Starting from the analysis of the evolutionary dynamics that have characterised the various phases of development of the European Welfare State, the course will address the specific features of the most important social policies, paying particular attention to the Italian context and highlighting the decisive role played by certain structural dimensions such as work and family. In particular, the following aspects will be explored:

- the historical evolutionary perspective;
- the description and contextualization of the main phases of development of the Welfare State;
- the theories for the analysis of the Welfare State;
- the definition of the main empirical approaches;
- the transformations of work and the impacts on social policies;
- focus on the Italian case;
- the demographic dimension and the changes in family structures;
- welfare models and schemes;
- the main areas of intervention of social policies.

Objectives

The course, through a participatory attendance at the lessons, will promote the following learning goals:

1. Knowledge and understanding

- Acquire basic knowledge of the concepts, theoretical models and areas of intervention of social policies, with particular reference to the Italian and European context.
- Understand the main theories relating to the social state, welfare and social protection systems.

2. Applied knowledge and understanding

- Know how to critically analyze documents, laws, examples of intervention and application tools relating to social policies.
- Recognize the impact of social policies on the different categories of users and on educational contexts.
- Apply concepts and tools of social policies to the planning of social interventions.

3. Autonomy of judgment

- Develop critical capacity in the interpretation of social phenomena and the policies adopted to address them.
- Be able to evaluate the adequacy of social policies with respect to the needs of people and communities.
- Develop independent reflections on the social, educational and cultural effects of political choices.

4. Communication skills

- Use appropriate technical language to describe and discuss issues related to social policies.
- Effectively communicate the results of analyses or research on social policies, both to specialist interlocutors and to a wider audience.
- Collaborate in multidisciplinary contexts, interacting with other professionals in the educational and social fields.

5. Learning skills

- Develop skills to independently update oneself on regulatory, institutional and organizational developments in the social policy sector.
- Acquire method in the study and research of sources and materials useful for professional development.
- Know how to integrate acquired knowledge with new information and perspectives coming from practical experience or subsequent studies.

Methodologies

The methodologies used during the course will be the following:

- frontal lessons, with the aim of providing students with a common level of knowledge on the main theoretical aspects;
  these lessons will be of teaching nature and will not be less than two hours a week, for a total of 30 hours
- discussion in class on the topics presented in the lectures (slides and articles) or on the content of any interventions by professionals and experts in the sector. these lessons will be interactive with the method of exercises or workshops, for a total of 18 hours in total

The course is taught in Italian and does not include online lessons.

Online and offline teaching materials

The books and articles are all available at the University Library, in paper or digital form.

Programme and references

The program to study for the exam is as follows:

- Ferrera, M., Jessoula M. (a cura di), (2025) "Le politiche sociali", Il Mulino – Quarta edizione.
- Aleotti, F., Diamantini, D. (2021). Innovazione sociale e strumenti di partecipazione. Il crowdsourcing per lo sviluppo di comunità. Franco Angeli

And three to choose from among the following articles:

- Natili, M. (2016). Schemi regionali di reddito minimo tra sviluppi di policy e dinamiche di politics. I casi di Friuli-Venezia Giulia e Lazio, *Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche*, *11*(1), 87-114
- Pritoni, A. e Sacchi, F. (2019). *I gruppi di interesse e il «Jobs Act»: lobbying con quali effetti?,* Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche, *14*(2), pp. 181-212.
- Sgritta, G. (2020). Politiche e misure della povertà: il reddito di cittadinanza, *Politiche Sociali, Social Policies*, *7*(1)*,* pp. 39-56.
- Guardiancich, I. e Natali, D. (2018). Le pensioni in Italia: nuove sfide e vecchi problemi, *Politiche Sociali, Social Policies*, (3), pp. 437-442.
- Saraceno, C. (2020). Politiche per le famiglie e disuguaglianze, *Politiche Sociali, Social Policies, 7(1),* pp. 103-124.
- Pavolini, E. e Ascoli, U. (2019). The Dark Side of the Moon: il ruolo del welfare fiscale nel sistema di protezione sociale italiano, *Politiche Sociali*, *6*(1), pp. 23-46.

The material is entirely available in digital format at the Library of the University of Milano-Bicocca.

Assessment methods

For the academic year 2025/26, there are no different exam methods for attending and non-attending students.
There will be no ongoing tests.

Type of test: The exam consists of a written test in which the student will be asked to demonstrate the acquisition of the knowledge discussed during the course and present in the bibliography, through open questions.
The exam lasts two hours and the student will have to answer four questions chosen from six proposals.

The choice of the written test as an exam method is consistent with the objectives of the teaching as it allows for the standardized assessment, in addition to knowledge, of learning skills in terms of autonomous re-elaboration of what has been studied as well as communication skills in the form of structured writing.

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation of the result of the thesis is based on the mastery of the concepts and issues relating to social policies and welfare systems covered during the course and in the texts in the bibliography, on the ability to argue the different paradigms and perspectives, supported by an appropriate use of sociological vocabulary.

Office hours

On appointment.

Write an email to the professor: davide.diamantini@unimib.it

Programme validity

2 academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dott.ssa Monica Mereghetti: monica.mereghetti@unimib.it

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS