



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fieldwork

2627-3-E3901N055

Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

Understand the techniques and tools employed throughout the different stages of the social work method.

Understand the role of the social worker within organizational contexts.

Understand the reciprocal relationship between practice and theory, with reference to social work theories and methods.

Understand the interconnection between individual and collective social problems.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding

Develop awareness of the professional role, interpreted in light of one's own personal competencies and professional identity ("knowing how to be").

Develop reflective skills concerning the methodological, ethical, and relational dimensions of social work practice.

Acquire the ability to interpret situations and critically analyse decision-making and intervention processes with reference to theoretical and ethical frameworks.

Making Judgements

Develop the ability to observe and critically analyse organizational contexts and the role of the social worker in relation to placement experiences.

Strengthen reflective competencies and critical judgement.

Communication Skills

Develop competencies in verbal, non-verbal, oral, and written communication, in both face-to-face and digital environments, as essential professional tools.

Learning Skills

Foster intellectual curiosity and the ability to identify strategies for further inquiry into key social work issues.

Contents

Planning and structuring the placement experience (learning objectives, tools, timeline, and related aspects).

Identification of cross-cutting themes emerging from the placement experience (e.g., use of self and emotions in helping relationships, professional writing).

Group reflection on placement experiences, promoting integration with the theoretical, methodological, and ethical dimensions of social work.

Detailed program

According with the learning outcomes outlined above, the content of the course is reviewed annually, taking into account both the interests of the student cohort and the issues emerging from placement experiences.

The course revisits the methodological process of social work, as well as the techniques and tools employed by social workers, with particular attention to interviewing skills. It also explores selected approaches and fields of practice, including network-based practice and community work, together with relevant institutional, legal, and organizational frameworks.

Teaching activities are primarily organized through collaborative learning and include case discussions and simulations, reflective narratives of placement experiences, practical exercises, small-group reading activities, the development of analytical frameworks, and other participatory learning strategies designed to encourage active student engagement and critical reflection.

To promote both an in-depth exploration of the specific field of each student's placement and a critical comparison of how the professional role of the social worker is enacted across different practice settings, teaching activities are organized through working groups composed both of students from the same field of practice and of students from different areas of intervention.

Prerequisites

Students are expected to have successfully completed the courses Principles and Foundations of Social Work, Social Work Methods and Techniques I, and Organization of Social Services, as well as the first- and second-year placement experiences.

Teaching methods

The course comprises 48 contact hours.

Teaching includes:

- 4 classes 4-hour face-to-face sessions and 8 classes 3-hour face-to-face sessions delivered in classroom settings and organized into four student groups: Learning activities include guided readings, videos and other educational materials to support critical reflection, group discussions based on placement experiences, practical exercises and simulations, and contributions from practicing social workers to stimulate discussion on the professional role.
2 teaching sessions may be delivered online.
- 2 classes 4-hour seminar-based sessions are held in person and may involve the participation of supervisors.

Assessment methods

In preparation for the final assessment, students must submit a written reflective report that critically examines their internship experience and integrates the knowledge and insights gained throughout the course.

The supervisor may be invited to participate in the final assessment and he/she will provide a written evaluation of the student's placement performance.

No mid-term assessments are scheduled.

An overall assessment will be recorded in the student's academic record.

Students who fail either the placement or the final assessment will be required to repeat both the course and the internship.

Attendance at the course, completion of the required internship hours, and participation in the final oral assessment are compulsory, in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Allegri, E. (2015). *Il Servizio sociale di comunità*. Rome: Carocci. (Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5).

Ferrario, F. (2001). *Il lavoro di gruppo nel servizio sociale*. Rome: Carocci.

Fargion, S. (2013). *Il metodo del servizio sociale*. Rome: Carocci Faber.

Sicora, A. (2022). *Emozioni nel servizio sociale*. Rome: Carocci Faber.

Sanfelici, M. (2017). *I modelli nel servizio sociale. Dalla teoria all'intervento*. Rome: Carocci.

Sanfelici, M. (2024). *Fondamenti del servizio sociale anti-oppressivo*. Rome: Carocci.

Carkhuff, R. (1994). *L'arte di aiutare*. Trento: Erickson.

Additional readings may be assigned during the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | LIFE ON LAND | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
