UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Laboratorio 1 - Disabilità e servizio sociale: la sfida dei diritti

2627-3-E3901N057

Learning objectives

Social services, whether provided by public institutions or the privat social sector, play a vital role in the lives of persons with disabilities who require intensive support. Day-to-day work in these settings appears to be defined from the outset by economic, regulatory and political constraints, leaving social workers to deal with the bureaucratic aspects and manage the technical ones. Is this really the case? The aim of this workshop is to encourage a critical examination of the role and function of social services in relation to support for persons with disabilities, highlighting both the constraints and the potential of the social worker's role. In particular, the workshop aims to bring to light the questions and demands that a human rights-based approach to disability places on the social and health care network.

- Knowledge and understanding
  To understand the human rights-based approach to disability and its implications for social work
- Applying knowledge and understanding
  To recognise and interpret real-life situations in which social work can either facilitate or hinder the processes of empowerment for persons with disabilities
- Making judgements
  The workshop values students' intention and ability to develop and communicate their own informed perspective on the role of professional social work in supporting the empowerment of persons with disabilities
- Communication skills
  The workshop requires and encourages students to express their ideas, doubts and reflections through a variety of opportunities and communication tools
- Learning skills
  Through a range of teaching methods (testimonials, field visits, group work, practical exercises and lectures), the workshop enables students to explore the subject matter in depth and develop their skills in a variety of ways that can be adapted to the the characteristics and preferences of the participants

Contents

The workshop will develop its training programme by exploring, primarily through active learning, a number of key topics such as:

Approaches to and the treatment of disability throughout history and in the present day
International, national and regional (Lombardy) legislation relating to social policies for disability, with specific reference to professional social work
Knowledge of the network of services
Personalised planning
The risk of discrimination and segregation

Detailed program

Session 1 Is an handicapped an handiccaped?
Session 2 What purpose do social services serve for people with disabilities?
Session 3 Encounters and clashes with services (visits and interviews with social workers) Session 4 The regulatory landscape
Session 5 Encounters and clashes with services (visits to day centres or residential care homes)
Session 6 Desires?
Session 7 Life plans, a good life
Session 8 Reading and talking about disability

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites

Teaching methods

The workshop aims to give students first-hand insight into the approach to social services adopted by organisations representing persons with disabilities, and the knowledge that stems from it. Students will therefore be invited, through a series of workshop-style classroom activities (exercises, debates, readings and video screenings), interspersed with meetings with key figures in the field and visits to particularly valuable services and initiatives, to explore and compare their own approach to disability with that developed within a significant part of the disability sector in Milan and Lombardy. There will also be informative and theoretical contributions on sector-specific legislation, the organisation of national and regional social welfare, and the social approach to disability. Between sessions, students will be provided with bibliographical references for further study (including both artistic and scientific literature, articles, websites, and various types of videos, etc.).
Overall, the workshop comprises eight three-hour sessions, of which: 6 will take place in the classroom, comprising 1 hour of lecture-based teaching and 2 hours of interactive teaching
2 will take place at local social, social care and social-health service centres, involving interviews with practitioners in the sector

Assessment methods

The success of the workshop depends on the students' active participation in the various proposed activities. Learning outcomes will be assessed primarily through classroom discussions and by evaluating the students' work on a number of typical workshop outputs, in particular:

reports on interviews with social workers, visits to social services and participation in the seminar
an article on an agreed topic, in which the student's perspective on a specific issue – to be agreed upon – relating to the relationship between disability and social services is brought to the fore.

Assessment criteria: clarity of presentation, correct use of language, analytical skills, independent judgement and connection with the content covered during the lectures

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
Le contraddizioni dell'inclusione, a cura di Matteo Schianchi (ed. Carocci, 2024)
Disabilità, il peso delle parole, di Giovanni Merlo (ed. ITL 2024)

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS