UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Pedagogical Consultancy To The Birth System

2627-1-F8502R009

Course title

Around birth: a pedagogical perspective

Topics and course structure

Why the knowledge of the essential aspects of the phenomenology of pregnancy, birth, postpartum and neonatal period, are also important for pedagogists?
How the knowledge of different contexts and care paths is useful for pedagogists and all the educational professionals?
The aim of the course is to answer these questions, through the construction of a conscious look at what is happening around the birth.
Despite the fact that for several decades international, documents and guidelines have recognized in the basic theoretical assumptions the multidimensional bio-psycho-social nature of pregnancy, childbirth and neonatal period,these founding events of the human adventure are often represented, described and included within predominantly bio-medical categories.
Instead recognize the intrinsic (self)educational values of these processes, identify the implicit pedagogies that inform the different paths and choices of care, allows the pedagogical consultant to understand the factors that facilitate or hinder the expression of the transformative potential inherent in these events, for all involved.
Concretely, it is a matter of questioning how the conditions within these events take place influence parents' and professionals' experiences and their systems of belonging, which impact in the short, medium and long term.
During the course, with the contribution of professionals and experts in the fields of midwifery, neonatology, and epidemiology, participants will be provided with essential knowledge regarding the phenomena of pregnancy, childbirth, and the neonatal period, both under normal physiological conditions and in more complex scenarios (prematurity, medically assisted reproduction, perinatal loss and bereavement, and the diagnosis of medical conditions). The course will illustrate how events occurring during this sensitive period influence the experiences of all individuals involved. In relation to the topics discussed, the impact of social media on the development of knowledge systems and models of new parenthood will also be explored. These models are often polarized and

ideologically opposed, highlighting the complexities of the underlying values that shape healthcare-related choices.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding:

- Knowing the essential elements relating to pregnancy, birth and the neonatal period, care pathways and models, regulatory frameworks and institutional contexts and identify explicit and implicit value assumptions
  Applied knowledge and understanding:
- Recognizing how care and organizational models and value systems influence the experience
- Knowing how to co-design training and consultancy paths in the birth system
  Autonomy of judgment:
- Acquire critical, reflective and analytical skills relating to educational and consultancy situations in which the birth system is involved (e.g. pedagogical consultations for parents, network training paths between educational services and health services)
  Communication skills
- Be able to collect the narration of birth experiences and facilitate processes of re-signification
- Use the specific languages and reference categories of the birth system
- Implement effective communication skills between professionals from different disciplines, services and institutions
  Ability of learning:
- Knowing how to find reliable information based on the problem and recipients
- Knowing how to make constant connections between knowledge and experiences to develop consultancy skills

Methodologies

Lessons are held in Italian.
The entire course will be delivered in interactive teaching mode and in person.
Each topic will be developed starting from the knowledge and representations of students around the proposed topics, discussed with the teacher and with experienced professionals in the field, parents, representatives of associations and privileged witnesses.
There will be group work based on case analysis, active research of information, the deepening of the bibliography of examination and the topics proposed and of specific interest of students

Online and offline teaching materials

Articles and materials for study will be uploaded to the e-learning platform and can be requested to the teacher via e-mail.

Programme and references

In-depth studies on the conceptual and institutional frames of reference of the birth system, on specific thematic

nuclei, other texts, documents and articles available on-line will be proposed during the lessons and, in agreement with the lecturer, may replace some of the texts in the bibliography.

The bibliography below is the same for both attending and non-attending students:

Texts:
Spandrio, Regalia, Bestetti Fisiologia della nascita, Carocci, 2024 (Introduzione, capp. 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12,13, 17, 19 da pag.574) Conclusioni
G. Colombo A. Regalia, La nascita: rischi reali, pericoli percepiti, Carocci, 2019
G. Rapisardi Lo sviluppo dei bambini. Capire come stanno crescendo e valorizzarne il potenziale. (da pag. 7 a pag 181)
S. Dalvit C. Antolini Il parto positivo. Mondadori, Milano, 2024
S. Damiani Lo faccio per il tuo bene. Il margine, Erickson, 2026

Detailed information about the course material will be published on the e-learning page associated with the course.

Although this course is held in Italian, for Erasmus students, course material can also be available in English, and students can take the exam in English if they wish to do so.

Assessment methods

The course does not include any midterm assessments. The exam will consist of an oral interview based on the discussion of an interview about the birth experience, transcribed without any modifications to the original text and submitted to the instructor and the course tutor at least 7 days before the examination. The oral exam will also assess the student's understanding and pedagogical interpretation of the key contents of the bibliography texts, as well as their ability to establish connections between these texts and the main themes explored in the interview.
The interview guidelines will be developed during the lessons and made available on the course webpage, including for non-attending students. The audio recording of the interview must be available on the day of the exam
The choice of an oral examin is consistent with the objectives of the course, as the dialogic nature of the interaction allows the instructor to assess the student's ability to critically understand the course topics, conduct pedagogical analysis, and connect theory and practice.

During the oral exam, the following will be assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental contents of the bibliography texts (knowledge and understanding).
- Ability to establish connections between different thematic areas and identify their pedagogical and educational implications (application of knowledge and understanding).
- Critical thinking and analytical skills (learning skills and independent judgment).
- Clarity of expression and appropriate use of language (communication skills).

Office hours

The teacher can be contacted by mail giovanna.bestetti@unimib.it or by tel 3478760907 (better by appointment agreed by mail or message whatsapp).

Programme validity

Course tutors and assistants

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Sustainable Development Goals

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