UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Mutamento Sociale e Vita Quotidiana

2627-2-E3902N017

Learning objectives

1. Knowledge and Understanding - Students will acquire theoretical knowledge to identify and understand the main challenges that local and global social change pose to contemporary social work.

2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding - Students will be able to apply conceptual and methodological tools to the empirical analysis of how current social transformations impact the practice and aims of social work.

3. Making Judgements - Through lessons, group work, and class discussion, students will practice thinking critically and forming their own opinions about how social work can respond to the challenges posed by social change.

4. Communication Skills - The course aims to encourage effective communication tailored to diverse audiences, including interdisciplinary teams and professional environments.

5. Learning Skills - The course structure encourages active learning, providing tools to understand the transformations and future of social work.

Contents

The course aims to:

- identify the main trends of social change;
- analyse the relationship between global and local challenges and social work;
- reflect on the future social work.

Detailed program

The course, which is delivered in Italian, consists of two interdependent parts.

1. The first part will introduce the key concepts of the course: social change, megatrends, globalization, life courses, generations, everyday life.
2. The second part will focus on the relationship between social change (global trends) and individual and family life courses, as well as the challenges that social work is called to address in the 21st century.

The course will also provide an overview of the main research tools used in social work to explore its connection to social change.

Prerequisites

Reasonable skills in sociology and social research methodology.

Teaching methods

Lessons and seminars held by guest speakers.

The course consists of 56 hours, of which about 60 percent will be standard lectures with the use of slides and 40 percent will be interactive teaching (group work promoting peer learning and interactions, case study discussions, and the design and preparation of slide/PPT presentations to be presented in class).

Assessment methods

Written exam: 10 multiple-choice questions (1.5 points for each correct answer) and one open-ended question (worth up to 15 points) based on the REQUIRED READINGS from the course syllabus. *The questions are designed to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the required readings.*

Students who attend at least 75% of the classes may choose to complete a group project, which will be taken into consideration as part of their overall assessment alongside the written exam. The aim of the group project is to design and deliver a slide/PPT presentation that explores one of the topics discussed during the course and in the required and recommended readings. Specifically, the presentation should focus on one of the main challenges facing social work in the 21st century, highlighting its key characteristics and implications for the profession.
The slide/PPT presentation can be done individually or in small groups (up to 3 students per group), and it needs to be presented and discussed in class before the course ends.
The slide presentations should follow the guidelines that will be explained at the beginning of the course.

*Erasmus students: Since the course is taught in Italian, Erasmus students are advised to take the standard exam. The standard exam consists of 10 multiple-choice questions and one open-ended question based on the required readings for Erasmus students. The exam questions will be provided in English.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

REQUIRED READINGS FOR THE EXAM

1. *Definizione internazionale di Servizio Sociale-Global Definition of Social Work* (2014): https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw_13127-9.pdf
2. Dominelli, L. (2022). *Servizio Sociale. La professione del cambiamento*, nuova edizione. Erikson - Introduzione: https://www.grusol.it/informazioni/29-04-06.pdf
3. ISTAT-Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (2025). *Italia 2050: sfide e prospettive di una società in transizione. Previsioni della popolazione residente e delle famiglie – Base 1/1/2024*. Statistiche Report, 28 luglio 2025: https://www.foe.it/files/2025/07/Report-Italia-2050.-Sfide-e-prospettive-di-una-societa-in-transizione.-Previsioni-della-popolazione-residente-e-delle-famiglie-Base-01.01.2024.pdf
4. Lorenz, W. (2010). *Globalizzazione e servizio sociale in Europa*. Carocci.
5. Sanfelici, M. (2026). Il servizio sociale nella transizione digitale (capitolo 1) e Per una transizione digitale giusta: principi, standard professionali e riflessione critica (capitolo 6). In: M. Sanfelici, U. Nothdurfter & A. Bilotti (a cura di), *Tecnologie digitali nel servizio sociale. Apprendere dalla ricerca per orientare la pratica*. FrancoAngeli open access, pp. 13–27 e pp. 121–143: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/1540

ERASMUS STUDENTS - REQUIRED READINGS FOR THE EXAM

1. Brandt, S., Roose, R. & Verschelden, G. (2016). Coming up for air: exploring an intergenerational perspective on social work. In: British Journal of Social Work, 46(5), pp. 1266-1281: https://academic.oup.com/bjsw/article/46/5/1266/1753890
2. Dominelli, L. (2013). Environmental justice at the heart of social work practice: greening the profession. In: International Journal of Social Welfare, 22, pp. 431-439: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ijsw.12024
3. *Global Definition of Social Work* (2014): https://www.ifsw.org/what-is-social-work/global-definition-of-social-work/
4. Grand Challenges for Social Work (2021). *Progress and Plans for the Grand Challenges. An Impact Report at Year 5 of the 10-Year Initiative*: https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/publications/grand-challenges-5-year-impact-report/
5. Lyons, K. (2006). Globalization and social work: International and local implications. In: British Journal of Social Work, 36(3), pp. 365-380: https://academic.oup.com/bjsw/article/36/3/365/1688814?login=true
6. Udah, H. & Francis, A. (2021). Covid-19: Challenges, opportunities, and the future of social work. In: International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change, 15(1), pp. 54-74: https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/67457/1/15104_Udah_2021_R.pdf

Suggested readings

DIVERSITY

• Barberis, E., Boccagni, P., & Denaro, C. (2024). *Il lavoro sociale con le persone immigrate. Verso una pratica riflessiva e inclusiva*. Maggioli Editore: https://www.maggiolieditore.it/il-lavoro-sociale-con-le-persone-immigrate.html

• Julkunen, I., Ruch, G., & Nurmi, A. (2022). Social work in a superdiverse society: an exploration of cooperation in professional practice. In: European Journal of Social Work, 26(4), pp. 612–625. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2022.2066634

• Kolar, E., & Sicora, A. (Eds.) (2015). *Social Work Around The World: Colors and Shapes in a Complex Mosai*c. Quaderni del Csal, Numero speciale di Visioni LatinoAmericane, Anno VII, Numero 13, Luglio: https://www.openstarts.units.it/server/api/core/bitstreams/863efa7b-7034-4a5d-bc75-db264cd09a71/content

• Noble, C., Strauss, H., & Littlechild, B. (Eds.) (2014). *Global Social Work: Crossing Borders, Blurring Boundaries*. Sydney University Press: https://open.sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/9781743324042.html

• Pattaro, C., & Nigris, D. (2022).*Le sfide dell'aiuto. Assistenti sociali nel quotidiano dell'immigrazione*. FrancoAngeli open access: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/320

• Solcà, P. (2018). Il lavoro sociale tra migrazione e cooperazione internazionale. In: Iride 4, aprile 2018: https://www2.supsi.ch/cms/iride/iride-4-aprile-2018/

FEMINISM, GENDER

• Benvenuti, P., & Segatori, R. (a cura di). (2000). *Professione e genere nel lavoro sociale*. FrancoAngeli.
• Fiore, B., & Facchini, C. (2013). Social work as gendered issue from a generational point of view. In: International Review of Sociology, 23(2), pp. 310–325: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03906701.2013.804294
• Di Rosa, R.T., & Gui, L. (a cura di) (2021). *Cura, relazione, professione. Questioni di genere nel servizio sociale. Il contributo italiano al dibattito internazionale*. Milano, FrancoAngeli open access: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/691
• Dominelli, L. (2002). *Feminist Social Work. Theory and Practice*. Palgrave: https://www.gacbe.ac.in/images/E%20books/Feminist%20Social%20Work%20Theory%20and%20Practice.pdf
• Lambertini, L. (a cura di). (2023). *La capacità di trasformare il mondo. Pratiche femministe di servizio sociale*. Settenove: https://www.settenove.it/articoli/la-capacita-di-trasformare-il-mondo/3439
• Wendt, S., & Moulding, N. (Eds.). (2016). *Contemporary Feminisms in Social Work Practice* (1ª ed.). Routledge: h ttps://www.routledge.com/Contemporary-Feminisms-in-Social-Work-Practice/Wendt-Moulding/p/book/9781138494534

FUTURE OF SOCIAL WORK

• Lynch, H., & Wilson, T. E. (Eds.). (2023). Social Work Future(s): What social work does the world need now? In: Social Work & Society, 21(1), Special issue: https://ejournals.bib.uni-wuppertal.de/index.php/sws/issue/view/43
• Nissen, L. (2020). Social work and the future in a post-Covid 19 world: A foresight lens and a call to action for the profession. In: Journal of Technology in Human Services, 38:4, pp. 309–330: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Q9DmiqZVwLnCLo_wTuHGaRuQPdezQto/view
• Udah, H., & Francis, A. (2021). Covid-19: Challenges, opportunities, and the future of social work. In: International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change, 15(1), pp. 54–74: https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/67457/

GENERATIONS

• Brandt, S., Roose, R., & Verschelden, G. (2016). Coming up for air: Exploring an intergenerational perspective on social work. In: British Journal of Social Work, 46(5), pp. 1266–1281: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4985731/
• Istituto degli Innocenti (2022). *Manuale di programmazione e progettazione dei servizi per le nuove generazioni,* a cura di Donata Bianchi e Stefano Ricci:
https://www.manualenuovegenerazioni.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/idi_Manuale-libro_221104.pdf
• Mantulak, A., Bullen, A., & Arundel, M.K. (2020). Generational learning in social work: Is it them or us?. In: Field Educator, 2020, Vol. 10, Issue 1, pp. 1–22: https://fieldeducator.simmons.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20-246-2.pdf
• Teater, B., & Chonody, J. (2017). Promoting actively aging: Advancing a framework for Social Work practice with older adults. In: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 98(2), pp. 137–145: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1606/1044-3894.2017.98.19

GLOBALIZATION

• Dominelli, L. (2010). Globalization, contemporary challenges and social work practice. in: International Social Work, 53(5), pp. 599–612: https://www.socialworkerskills.eu/uploads/1/4/4/7/144711219/dominelli-2010-globalization-contemporary-challenges-and-social-work-practice__1_.pdf
• Lorenz, W. (2010). *Globalizzazione e servizio sociale in Europa*. Carocci.
• Lyons, K. (2006). Globalization and social work: International and local implications. In: British Journal of Social Work, 36(3), pp. 365–380:
https://www.jstor.org/stable/23720931

GREEN SOCIAL WORK / ECO-SOCIAL WORK

• Banks, S., Bertotti, T., Cairns, L., Shears, J., Shum, M., Sobo?an, A. M., Strom, K., & Úriz, M. J. (2024). Social work beyond the pandemic: Exploring social work values for a new eco-social world. In: International Social Work, 67(4), pp. 890–904: https://doi.org/10.1177/00208728241227O6

• Bowles, W., Boetto, H., Jones, P., & McKinnon, J. (2018). Is social work really greening? Exploring the place of sustainability and environment in social work codes of ethics. In: International Social Work, 61(4), pp. 503–517: https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872816651695
• Breen, K, Greig, M., & Wu, H. (2023). Learning green social work in global disaster contexts: A case study approach. In: Social Sciences, 12(5): 288: https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12050288
• Dominelli, L. (2013). Environmental justice at the heart of social work practice: greening the profession. In: International Journal of Social Welfare, 22, pp. 431–439: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ijsw.12024
• Dominelli, L. (2014). Promoting environmental justice through green social work practice: A key challenge for practitioners and educators. In: International Social Work, 57(4), pp. 338–345: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0020872814524968
• Matutini, E. (a cura di) (2023). *Eco-social Work. Politica e lavoro sociale nella crisi ecologica*. PM Edizioni.
• Matutini, E., Da Roit, B., & Busacca, M. (2023). Il lavoro sociale nella crisi ecologica. In: Secondo Welfare, 9 maggio 2023: https://www.secondowelfare.it/primo-welfare/il-lavoro-sociale-nella-crisi-ecologica/
• McKinnon, J. (2008). Exploring the nexus between social work and the environment. In: Australian Social Work, 61, 3, pp. 256–268: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03124070802178275
• Nothdurfter, U., & Pedroni, M.C. (2024). Esplorare le pratiche di lavoro eco-sociale. Un progetto di rilevante interesse nazionale. In: Welforum.it, 29 Luglio 2024: https://www.welforum.it/esplorare-le-pratiche-di-lavoro-eco-sociale/#ftnref2
• Ramsay, S., & Boddy, J. (2017). Environmental social work: A concept analysis. In: The British Journal of Social Work, 47(1), pp. 68–86: https://academic.oup.com/bjsw/article/47/1/68/2622336

MEGATRENDS AND CHALLENGES

• Calbucci, R., Deidda, M., De Santi, M., Di Rosa, R. T., Fiorentini, A., Giuliano, E. M., Gui, L., Mordeglia, S., Pelosio, S., Sartori, F., Ticchiati, R., & Zannoni, A. (2016). *Servizio sociale e calamità naturali: interventi di servizio sociale*. Edizioni EISS:
https://www.assieme-rer.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/E-book-Servizio-Sociale-e-calamit%C3%A0-naturali.pdf
• CNOAS-Consiglio Nazionale Ordine Assistenti Sociali (2020). *Vademecum servizio sociale professionale e post pandemia*: https://cnoas.org/servizio-sociale-professionale-e-post-pandemia-ecco-un-vademecum/
• Dixson-Declève, S., Gaffney, O., Ghosh, J., Randers, J., Rockström, J. & Stoknes, P. E. (2022). *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity. Executive Summary*. Earth4All. https://earth4all.life/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Earth4All_Exec_Summary_EN.pdf
• European Union (2023). *L'impatto dei cambiamenti demografici in un ambiente in evoluzione*. Publications Office of the European Union:
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/impact-demographic-change-europe_it
• Grand Challenges for Social Work (2024). *2024 Policy Recommendations for Meeting the Grand Challenges for Social Work*:
https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/240701-Final-Policy-Brief-Packet_V3.pdf
• Gruppo di esperti su demografia e COVID-19 (2020). *L'impatto della pandemia di covid-19 su natalità e condizione delle nuove generazioni:* https://famiglia.governo.it/media/2192/rapporto-gruppo-demografia-e-covid19_1412020.pdf
• IIF-Italian Institute for the Future-IIF (vari anni). *Emerging Long-Term Megatrends*: https://www.instituteforthefuture.it/progetti/emerging-long-term-megatrends/
• Ministro dell'ambiente e della sicurezza energetica (2023). *Piano nazionale di adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici* (PNACC): https://www.mase.gov.it/portale/web/guest/-/clima-approvato-il-piano-nazionale-di-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici
• OECD (2024). *Megatrends and the Future of Social Protection*:
https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/megatrends-and-the-future-of-socialprotection_6c9202e8-en.html
• Sanfelici, M., Gui, L., & Mordeglia, S. (a cura di) (2020). *Il Servizio Sociale nell'emergenza Covid-19*, Fondazione Nazionale Assistenti Sociali, FrancoAngeli open access: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/581
• WEF (2026). *Global Risks Report 2026*: https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2026/

TECHNOLOGY

• Burgalassi, M., & Tilli, C. (2023). *La professione di assistente sociale nel Terzo Settore: Una ricerca nazionale*.

Franco Angeli open access: https://series.francoangeli.it/index.php/oa/catalog/book/1061
• Campanini, A. (2022). L'utilizzo delle tecnologie informatiche nel servizio sociale. In: Welforum.it, 8 Luglio 2022: https://welforum.it/il-punto/welfare-digitale-servizio-sociale-e-gap-formativo/lutilizzo-delle-tecnologie-informatiche-nel-servizio-sociale/
• Clary, K. L., Nason, E., Selber, K., & Smith, K. S. (2022). *Developing a Roadmap for Harnessing Technology in Social Work: Training the Next Generation of Social Workers*. Smith College Studies in Social Work, 92(2), pp. 111–132. https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2022.2041148
• Dif-Pradalier, M., & Geppi, S. (2018). Il lavoro sociale all'epoca della digitalizzazione: Rischi e opportunità. In: Iride: Rivista di economia, sanità e sociale, (5), pp. 33–35. https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-1044661
• Russ, E. & Reimer, E. C. (2025). Digital intervention for advancing social work and welfare education. In: Social Sciences, 14(1), 50: https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14010050

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)
• American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (2015). *Ending Gender-Based Violence: A Grand Challenge for Social Work*. Working Paper N. 15:
https://grandchallengesforsocialwork.org/publication/ending-gender-based-violence-a-grand-challenge-for-social-work-working-paper-no-15/
• Bartholini, I., & Intravaia, V. (2019). Riflessioni sul ruolo dell'assistente sociale nella presa in carico di migranti vittime di violenza di prossimità. In: Welfare e Ergonomia, IV, 2, pp. 77–90.
• Olsson, H., Larsson, A-K. L., & Strand, J.M.S. (2024). Social Workers' experiences of working with partner violence. In: The British Journal of Social Work, Volume 54, Issue 2, March, pp. 704–722: https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcad240
• Popolla, M., & Bagattini, D. (2024). *Violenza maschile sulle donne. Il ruolo dell'assistente sociale tra sfide e opportunità.* Genova University Press: https://gup.unige.it/Violenza-maschile-sulle-donne

WARS
• Elsana, A., Paul, K., & Denov, M. (2023). "A no man's land – Social work in 'in-between' conflict settings: ethical challenges and dilemmas in Kufr Aqab". International Social Work, Vol. 66, No. 5, pp. 1457–1469: https://doi.org/10.1177/00208728221079228
• Maglajli?, R. A., & Ioakimidis, V. (Eds.). (2025). *Local Perspectives on Social Services and Social Work in the Context of War and Conflict*. IFSW: https://www.ifsw.org/product/books/local-perspectives-on-social-services-and-social-work-in-the-context-of-war-and-conflict/
• UNICEF Ukraine (2022). *Social Workers Support Vulnerable Amid War in Ukraine*: https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en/stories/social-workers-daily-job.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS