UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Principles of The Social Service

2627-1-E3902N004

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:
Knowledge and understanding: Know the theoretical, historical and ethical foundations of social work, with reference to both the professional paradigms that have guided its evolution and the principles codified at national and international level.
Applied knowledge and understanding: Apply the theoretical and ethical principles of social work in an integrated manner to the various stages of the professional methodological process, recognising their relevance in operational contexts.
Autonomy of judgement: Reflect critically on the different interpretative models of the role of social work, assessing the theoretical, ethical and historical implications for professional practice.
Communication skills: Argue clearly and rigorously one's reflections on the principles, values and transformations of social work, using appropriate professional and disciplinary language.
Learning skills: Develop a reflective and self-directed learning attitude, useful for continuous updating on theoretical and ethical references and on the transformations of the profession.

Contents

What is social work? Why social work? Social service definitions in the national context
Promoting social justice in practice: social service skills and the lens of anti-oppressive social work
Social work in history: charity, care, social justice
The positioning of social work in welfare systems, between organisational and professional mandate

Detailed program

The course will present the key theoretical concepts and ethical issues relevant to the practice of social work, with the aim of raising awareness of the theoretical assumptions and values that guide professional practice and how these have changed throughout history and in the present day.
The first part of the course reconstructs the history and the roots of the values and organisation of social services, with the aim of answering the question of what social services are and what their foundations are.
The second part of the course, on the other hand, focuses on the skills and perspectives of social work, starting from critical theories and the anti-oppressive approach, and the question of reflexivity as a practice of social work, in close dialogue and relation with the Code of Ethics of Social Workers and the Global Declaration of Ethical Principles of Social Work.

Prerequisites

none

Teaching methods

The lessons are structured by alternating the discussion of theoretical concepts with group exercises, useful for experimenting with the application of the concepts to professional practice.
The didactic will be approximately 60% expositive, and the remainder will be interactive and no online teaching will be provided.

Assessment methods

Oral examination aimed at testyfing t knowledge of the principles and fundamentals of social work.
The exam will consist of two open questions to be answered. A satisfactory answer to both questions is required to pass the exam.
The oral exam aims to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and content of the course, their ability to make connections and links between topics, and their ability to rework the topics covered in a personal way.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Fargion S. (2009), Il servizio sociale. Storia, temi, dibattiti, Laterza (capitoli 1,2,3,4)
Bertotti T., Fazzi L., Rosignoli A. (2021), Il servizio sociale: le competenze chiave, Carocci (capitoli 1,2,3,4,6,7)
Scarscelli D. (2022), Controllo e autodeterminazione nel lavoro sociale. Una prospettiva antioppressiva, Meltemi

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS