UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Systems of Family Solidarity

2627-1-F8702N004-F8702N00401

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding (D1)
Students will acquire conceptual and theoretical tools for the sociological analysis of families, gender relations, intergenerational dynamics and welfare systems. They will gain understanding of contemporary social transformations.

Applying knowledge and understanding (D2)
Learners will develop the ability to apply theoretical frameworks to analyze qualitative and quantitative data, and critically interpret public policies and family dynamics through a sociological lens.

Making judgements (D3)
The course promotes critical thinking and independent judgment on welfare transformations, family vulnerabilities and gender inequalities, with an intersectional perspective.

Communication skills (D4)
Through presentations and group discussions, students will strengthen their skills in oral communication, critical debate, and the use of disciplinary language.

Learning skills (D5)
Students will be encouraged to develop autonomy in learning and the ability to navigate academic literature, preparing for further study or empirical research.

Contents

The aim of the course is to introduce the theme of welfare starting from families and parental structures.
Space will be given to the concepts of solidarity and family vulnerability.

Detailed program

The course explores changes in family and welfare systems, with a focus on solidarity, care and vulnerability. Topics include:

- Contemporary family structures and models
- Welfare policies and family law
- The weakening of solidarity networks
- Generational experiences and parenting
- Gender, care and professional roles
- Domestic violence and power relations
- Ageing and intergenerational caring
- Work-life balance and intimate transitions

Prerequisites

There are no preliminary requirements for the course.

Teaching methods

Interactive lectures

Guided class discussions

Student-led presentations

All activities will be conducted in person.

Assessment methods

Final assessment includes a written exam with 3 open questions (short essays). Attending students may also present a topic or submit a research project.
Evaluation criteria:

- Mastery of content and concepts (DdD 1-2)
- Critical and independent thinking (DdD 3)
- Written/oral Communication skills (DdD 4)
- Ability to integrate theory and data (DdD 5)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Satta C., Magaraggia S., Camozzi I. (2020), Sociologia della vita famigliare. Soggetti, contesti e nuove prospettive, Carocci.

Mercuri, E. (2025). Buoni genitori. Come esperti e famiglie costruiscono la genitorialità. Carocci.

Studenti Erasmus:
Chambers, D., & Gracia, P. (2021). A sociology of family life: Change and diversity in intimate relations. John Wiley & Sons.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES