# Social Theatre

## Prof. Carla Coletti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to promote the knowledge of the educational, therapeutic, health-related, social, and political functions of the practices and performative arts currently defined as 'Social theatre’, and distinguish them from other forms of theatre. In particular, the course aims to introduce and invite students to experience the purpose and the application of performative arts with a focus on school, prison, marginalised areas, and communities; furthermore, it aims to explore the main orientation tools in the field of education to theatre, especially from the point of view of its educational, relational, and socialising value.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* identify and describe the functions of Social theatre;
* analyse some specific dynamics of Social theatre, especially those related to self-development (for individuals, groups, and local communities) and social and political actions;
* identify and describe intervention procedures and practices.

From a practical point of view, thanks to the adoption of an interdisciplinary perspective, students will be able to apply their newly-acquired knowledge to the analysis of different experiences of Social theatre that are currently taking place in the local, regional, and national context, identifying their functions, purposes, goals, methods, and the strategies used for their realisation; in addition, they will be able to observe the specific procedures related to multidimensional and participatory planning, with a focus on the dynamics related to communities and social networks.

In terms of communication skills, at the end of the course students will be able to make a presentation based on the analysis of an experience related to social theatre, organising contents in an effective way and making a conscious use of performative elements.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Presentation of Social theatre in the broader context of contemporary performance and the use of artistic practices with a social purpose.
* The historical foundations of Social theatre.
* Social theatre practices and methodologies: games, ritualisations, workshops, performances, festivals and events, community dramaturgy.
* The educational, therapeutic, and socio-political functions of Social theatre in the contemporary age.
* A meeting with field experiences related to Social theatre: an analysis of working practices and participatory design and planning procedures.

***READING LIST***

A. Pontremoli, *Elementi di teatro educativo, sociale e di comunità*, UTET, Turin, 2015.

A. Rossi Ghiglione, A. Pagliarino, *Fare teatro sociale*, Dino Audino, Rome, 2011.

A. Rossi Ghiglione, *Teatro sociale e di comunità*, Dino Audino, Rome, 2013.

C. Bernardi, Il teatro sociale. L'arte tra disagio e cura, Rome, Carocci, 2004.

The reading list will be integrated with teaching material provided by the lecturer during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Theoretical frontal lectures, group practical works, individual research, practical activities inside and outside the class. During the course, students may also be invited to attend workshops or join social theatre experiences on the field.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment will consist in an oral exam. It will be based on the topics discussed in class and the reading list for the final exam specified by the lecturer. The assessment aims to verify the students’ acquisition of a good knowledge of the course content; for this reason, the oral exam will start from the personal reinterpretation of a social theatre experience students have joined or studied.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since the course will include also practical activities, students are invited to attend classes on a regular basis and actively participate during lectures. Any problems related to class attendance must be communicated to the lecturer, in order to define alternative measures.

In terms of content, please note that the teaching will be based on the skills acquired by students during year 1 (in particular the history of theatre and entertainment and visual arts) and 2 (performance and performative arts).

*Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.*