# . - Community Psychiatry

## Prof. Giovanni Battista Tura

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

The course offers a polythematic excursus allowing to contextualise the topic of mental health and mental disorders in the contemporary social environment, with a focus on the ongoing dynamics of change. It aims to provide adequate information and theoretical knowledge with a constant and concrete reference to clinical practice, in order to be able to offer useful elements for a qualified, competent, and effective positioning of future professionals in a modernity that requires not only individual skills, but also a growing ability to network and act with an interdisciplinary approach, which considers more and more professionals as co-actors in integrated and multiprofessional interventions; this is especially due to the constantly changing characteristics of individuals, care pathways, and to the constantly changing demands of the same interventions.Starting from theoretical concepts, in line with the current literature and the main clinical/therapeutic/rehabilitative models of reference, the course will offer experiences strictly related to real-life clinical situations, with a constant reference to everyday practice and experiential educational situations, also in external fields and environments promoting direct experience.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the end of the course, students will be able to acquire information and concepts allowing them to:

-know the different elements defining mental disorder in the actual world, especially with regard to the forms and manifestations of growing interest that they will encounter more and more frequently during their professional life

-know the characteristics of contemporary users and care requests and expectations

-know the organisation of mental health services and understand how their actions can be contextualised in the different treatment procedures

-know how their actions can be integrated and interact with the other professions in the field of mental health

ABILITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the end of the course, students will be able to (also with regard to the habit of finding connections between theoretical/programmatic premises and everyday clinical practice)

-acquire the tools they need for the practical application of formative assumptions

-assess towards which field of the organisation of mental health services they want to orient their interest and professional practice

-interact in a competent and pro-active way with different interlocutors (users, families, other professionals, other services)

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Unit 1: Historical and organisational elements**

* 1. **The historical evolution of the concept of mental health**

From the concept of ‘madness’ to the concept of ‘mental illness’

The management of mental illness in Italy until the Law 180

The Law 180 and the transformation of the psychiatric paradigm

After the Law 180: psychiatry in the contemporary age in Italy and other contexts

* 1. **The current organisation of the offer for Mental Health**

Care facilities, such as Mental Health and Addiction Departments

Alternative treatment procedures and the relationship with other agencies (social and health services, General Medicine, Social Services)

**Unit 2: Operational and clinical elements**

**2.1 The different forms of mental disorder in the contemporary context**

Psychiatric disorders and the impact in the context of social community

The individual and collective perception of mental disorder in its different clinical interpretations

**2.2** **The new emergencies**

The manifestations of mental disorder at different ages (adolescence, adulthood, old age)

Personality disorders: new forms with a growing incidence

Traditional and new addictions

Mental disorder in migration-related trauma

Mental disorders and forensic issues

Social marginality and mental disorder

**2.3 ‘Taking care’ of patients and working with networks**

The bio-psycho-social models and the integration of different perspectives

Pro-actions and oppositions in networks

Shared approaches and languages

The diagnostic-clinical-rehabilitative paradigm as a shared paradigm for the treatment

‘Quality of life’ as the objective of treatments

Care pathways

The Therapeutic/Rehabilitative Plan as a tool for the integration of interventions

**Unit 3: Social elements**

**3.1 ‘Co-actors’ in care pathways**

The new features and expectations of the ‘patient-user-customer’

The role of family

The role of social contexts (school, work, life community)

The role of treatment procedures for physical health (MMG or general practitioners, other medical specialities)

**3.2** **The new objectives for Mental Health**

The ‘right to citizenship’ for people with mental disorders: recovery, inclusion, competitiveness

Impediments (the lack of resources, the contractual capacity of the people with mental disorders, the persistence of stigma, the ‘traditional’ and the emerging forms of opposition)

***READING LIST***

Specific teaching material related to the topics analysed in class will be made available for students; it will be focused on the subjects that will be discussed during the exam.

Recommended readings

1) Andrea Fiorillo, Serafino De Giorgi, Roberto Brugnoli,  *La psichiatria sociale in Italia: evidenze ed esperienze,* Pacini Editore 2020

2) R. Pioli, G. Rossi, P. Morosini, *Accreditamento volontario tra pari delle strutture residenziali riabilitative in salute mentale*, Centro Scientifico Editore

3) M. Rossi Monti, *Manuale di Psichiatria per Psicologi,* Carocci Editore Manuali

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, group discussions, practical activities based on the ability to make connections (which are, for human science, the equivalent of workshops for natural science), personal experiences told by psychiatric professionals and patients.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment will consist in an oral exam, in which students will have to demonstrate that they can find their way among the fundamental issues and the topics analysed in class. The assessment criteria will include the accuracy of the answers, the use of an appropriate terminology, the ability to use argumentation to create a structured and coherent discourse, and the capacity to identify conceptual connections and open issues. The oral exam will be focused on the content of the recommended readings and the teaching material made available during the course (slides, scientific articles, clinical material adapted for didactic use).

The final mark will be determined by the degree of compliance of the students’ knowledge with the Course content, as well as their ability to find connections between different subjects and keep theoretical and practical factors in synergy.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should show a certain interest towards the clinical and ethical dimension of the discipline, and reflection (both the one based on concepts or arguments and the one with direct pragmatic applications)

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.