# Ethics of Care

## Prof. Paolo Monti; Prof. Andrea Gollini

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Aims

The course aims to introduce students to the ethics of care in contexts of significant cultural and religious pluralism, and to develop their capacities for critical reflection on their professional practice, with particular reference to the field of social service.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

At the end of the course, students will know the philosophical concepts underlying the ethics of care and public ethics. They will be able to distinguish between multicultural and intercultural policies, and between secular and post-secular paradigms. They will be able to appreciate the ethical and professional relevance of cultural and religious affiliations.

They will also learn the fundamental concepts of the field of anthropological religious studies. They will be able to understand the ways, languages and practices through which religious systems present themselves in different cultural and social contexts, and analyse the aforementioned contexts through the conceptual and theoretical tools of socio-cultural anthropology.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

At the end of the course, students will be able to analyse the critical issues of professional practice that emerge from the interaction between the culture of the professional and that of the recipients of his/her intervention.

Explain emerging ethical issues within contexts of pronounced religious pluralism. Deliberate, individually and in groups, on the course of action to be adopted in the face of ethically problematic and dilemmatic situations that arise in the relationship between professionals, institutions and religious minorities.

Autonomous judging skills:

At the end of the course, students will be able to offer ethical justifications for their professional conduct and to reflect on the relationship between their professional practice and the cultural and religious pluralism of contemporary social contexts.

They will also be able to analyse particular contexts and situations by identifying the influence of culture and religion and their interaction with other dimensions (economic, social, legal).

COURSE CONTENT

1. The ethical choice of the social professional in the face of cultural and religious pluralism, between theoretical models and key concepts: (a) Multiculturalism and interculturalism; (b) Secularism and post-secularism.

2. Professional practice and the phenomenon of religious pluralism: (c) Discussion of ethical disputes that arise in the public sphere in relation to religious diversity; (d) Evaluation of areas of practice marked by the reinterpretation, reappropriation and enhancement of religious diversity.

3. Contextualisation of the anthropological study of religions within the field of cultural anthropology and definition of the basic concepts: culture, ethnocentrism, religion, distinction between official religions, popular religions and "nameless" religions, relationship between magic, religion and science, relationship between religion and power.

4. In-depth topics: some specific aspects of forms of popular religion will be explored through the analysis of case studies that, due to their characteristics, particularly appeal to social workers. The topic of the relationship between spirituality and social work will also be presented and addressed.

READING LIST

For parts 1 and 2 of the programme:

J. Maclure - C. Taylor, *La scommessa del laico,* Laterza, Rome-Bari 2013.

or

M.C. Nussbaum, *La nuova intolleranza*, Il Saggiatore, Milan, 2012. Chapters 1 to 5.

For parts 3 and 4 of the programme:

U. Fabietti, *Materia sacra: corpi, oggetti, immagini, feticci nella pratica religiosa,* Raffallo Cortina,Milan 2014. Chapters 1 to 5.

or

E. Comba, *Antropologia delle religioni: un'introduzione*, Laterza, Bari 2007. Chapters 1 to 4.

Some additional short readings will be made available on the Blackboard platform during the course.

TEACHING METHOD

The course consists of two modules, the first in the philosophical area, taught in the first semester by Prof. Paolo Monti, the second in the anthropological area, taught in the second semester by Prof. Andrea Gollini.

The course is taught in blended mode, thus providing an intertwining of face-to-face lectures with content made available online, with 3 weeks taught in person, followed by 4 weeks remotely and then 3 weeks in person in both semesters.

The course is divided into:

* Frontal lectures.
* Group tutorials (analysis and discussion of cases).
* Role-playing and non-formal learning dynamics.
* Readings given to students during the online weeks, with assigned tasks.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

A written exam covering parts 3 and 4 of the course syllabus and a concluding oral exam comprising two questions relating to parts 1 and 2 of the course syllabus.

The final mark is expressed out of thirty and takes into joint account the assessments of the two exams:

1. Basic knowledge of the anthropology of religions and an ability to analyse the cases expressed in the written exam (50%);
2. Theoretical knowledge of the ethics of care and intercultural relations, command of the language, and presentation skills expressed in the oral exam (50%).

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Notes

The teaching materials used during the course and any other material useful for

exam preparation will be made available online on the Blackboard platform.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.