Vocational Workshop on Social Service

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Vocational workshop on social service I: Prof. Deborah Occhi and Prof. Sonia Scalvini

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

The course accompanies first-year students in the discovery of their aptitude for encountering the Other, their territory, the communities to which they belong and the main public and private actors of local welfare systems.

Attending students have the opportunity to rapidly verify whether they have made the correct decision in choosing to undertake training for social service, approaching topics characterising Social work and exploring the sharing of reflections through the group method. These experiences enable students to test cooperative relationships, facilitating their development of critical thinking and improving their communication skills.

In a second phase, the Vocational workshop on social service prepares students for a first supervised placement experience, so as to acquire useful field competences which they can constructively review in the classroom.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the training, students will be capable of understanding the nature and what the social worker “vocation” asks of them personally and professionally and to decide on their certain and more motivated participation in the undertaken training pathway.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Introduction: familiarisation with group work with a view to mutuality.

2. Analysis of initial expectations with regard to one’s training pathway and future career: motivations, expectations, strengths, critical issues and possible obstacles.

3. Social work from the “user’s” perspective: knowing real-life experiences and the local organisations in the territory, coming into contact with users of the Services and their families.

4. Preparation for field work: practical advice and acquiring knowledge of tools for the observation and contextualisation of social problems and the main relevant territorial responses; becoming self-aware and aware of other people’s experiences; applying the first professional knowledge.

5. Guidance for the autonomous search of the first field placement.

6. Reworking, through group work, of field experiences and of classroom presentations of these experiences.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be specified during the workshop course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The Vocational workshop on social service has three-hour weekly scheduled meetings, which take place during the first and the second semester.

The teaching method is non-frontal and consists in group work (and possible subgroups work), meeting “Experts by Experience” (users and family members); meeting social workers (professionals and volunteers), the study of videos and presentations in the classroom. Students will have individual periodical interviews with their lecturer.

Students will take turns to write minutes and will be asked to prepare written individual and/or group reports.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam for the Vocational workshop on social service will be oral, and will be held in front of a small board of examiners which will include tutor-lecturers in charge, following the approval of a report submitted by the students.

The students will receive the outline for the preparation of the paper during the academic year.

The final assessment will be based on workshop activities, written papers prepared during the course, students’ active participation and on the oral exam.

The mark will be out of thirty.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must attend at least 2/3 of total hours in order to achieve the workshop’s intended learning outcomes.

There are no knowledge prerequisites for students to attend the course, but it is assumed that students participate actively, show interest, are creative, motivated and committed.

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

Emotional sensitisation Module (Prof. Mara Bonati and Prof. Sara Lombardi)

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

The aim of the Module is to offer students a time and place to define feelings and emotions related to the professional choice they have made and to the real-life situation of needs and personal social services. The small group, whose members will not change over time and which will be guided by an expert facilitator, will be the appropriate venue to theme, explore and analyse in depth the emotional experiences which students will be exposed to during the academic year, thereby verifying their interest in this work and subjective implications. The group work method provides students a sufficiently protected context in which to ask questions, express fears, doubts, the realisation of the burdens and responsibilities which this profession entails, so that they may be optimally prepared for the social work to be carried out in future.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will have acquired an awareness of their personal life experiences and of the importance of their role as social workers.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The Emotional sensitisation workshop is held following Rogers’ “encounter groups” format, with an open and reflective structure and structured reflection, and with contents drawn from students’ experiences and sensitivity.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be recommended by the tutor-lecturers during the academic year.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The Module has 10 three-hour weekly scheduled meetings, which take place during the first and the second semester, thus enabling students to rework emotionally the experiences they have had during the first placement.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment of students attending the Emotional sensitisation workshop will include workshop activities, a written paper and their active participation.

Students will be marked with a pass-fail grading system.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must attend at least 2/3 of total hours in order to achieve the Module’s intended learning outcomes.

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