**Social Work Methodology III** (**with “Module on the Procedures and Techniques of the Social Services**”)

# Module 1: Social Work Methodology III

## Prof. Valentina Calcaterra

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

The course examines in depth the principles and professional methodology of community social work in the context of the design and implementation of community interventions, from “social groupwork” to different areas and levels of “relational co-design” in social services and local communities.

The Module includes a “methodological reworking” Workshop (prof. Federica Vezzoli), based on experiential work conducted by students in the territories where they practice during placements, under the direct supervision of university tutors. Moreover, the course includes a Workshop on “the analysis of good relational practices” (Prof. Francesca Megni), with the direct involvement of interested parties (users, families and citizens who are *experts by experience*).

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be capable of expressing an adequate professional reflexivity regarding possible innovative “open help” practices, which promote civil and social capital empowerment. Such practices are typical of Social work carried out inside local communities, also “external” to the bureaucratic or managerial contexts of traditional welfare organisations. Translated into practice, students will be expected to show that they have acquired adequate skills in detecting significant concerns expressed by communities of the territories where they practice, as well as in the promotion of community networks or of new social movements created to deal with these issues. More specifically, students will be expected to show that they are proficient in managing the “relational facilitation” technique, both in the management of small groups and in the co-design of social microprojects.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Professional social work targeting communities: group work and community social work.
2. Informal community social networks and community care policies
3. Empowerment and participation of users and active citizens in the design and co-design of interventions targeting communities
4. “Methodological” and “operational” purposes in community social work
5. The concept of “guide-group” in relational design at community level
6. Community development; participatory planning of social services (social care planning) and coping with specific problems or community emergencies (community problem solving)
7. Facilitation/relational guidance methods in self/mutual help groups
8. Facilitation methods for the launch and support of projects in local communities

***READING LIST***

D. Steimberg (2002), *L’auto/mutuo aiuto: guida per i facilitatori di gruppo,* Erickson, Trento

Calcaterra V. & Panciroli C. (2021), *Il Lavoro Sociale di Comunità passo dopo passo. Metodologia e strumenti per progetti a valenza collettiva,* Erickson, Trento

V. Calcaterra (2013), *Attivare e Facilitare gruppi di auto/mutuo aiuto*, Erickson, Trento

M.L. Raineri (2011), *Lavorare con la comunità. Analisi metodologica di stage innovativi,* in *Lavoro Sociale*, vol. 11, no. 1, April, pp. 107-117.

F. Folgheraiter (2016), *Scritti scelti: teoria e metodologia di social work*, Erickson, Trento (Chaps. 4, 8, 10, 21,22, 23, 32, 35, 40)

M. Mayo (2002), *Community work*, in Adam R., Dominelli L., Payne M. (eds.) *Social work: Themes, issues and critical debates*, London, Palgrave (Chapter specified during lectures)

One classic text written by prominent figures of social thought will be specified during lectures, on which group work will be carried out to develop humanistic and scientific links with the professional practices of community social work.

Lecture notes and the texts of classroom exercises will be uploaded on the lecturer’s webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Teaching will consist in frontal lectures, group exercises, the analysis of speeches by professional practitioners, expert users and active citizens, meetings for the methodological reworking of ongoing placements.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will have to take both a written and an oral exam. The written exam will be based on the content of lectures, described in the recommended reading list specified for the course. The written test consists in 5 open-ended questions. The assessment criteria will include the theoretical and conceptual correctness of the answers and students’ ability to methodologically rework examples of real-life cases. In order to take the oral exam, students must have passed the written exam (with a minimum mark of 18/30). The exam will consist in the presentation of a brief paper with reflections based on the experiences discussed during the 2 practical Workshops (instructions for writing the paper and deadlines will be given during lectures). The course will be marked out of thirty and will also take into account the mark obtained in the Procedures and Techniques of the Social Services 3 module.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are strongly advised to attend at least two-thirds of the lessons of the Social Work Methodology III Module. Student workers may agree on a personalised course programme with the lecturer. Students must have passed all the exams of all the methodological (Social Work Methodology I and Social Work Methodology II) and hands-on learning activities of the field placement of the previous years of the programme.

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.

**Module 2: Procedures and Techniques of the Social Services III**

Prof. Laura Pinto

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

The aim of the course is to develop and complete students’ basic knowledge on the relevant laws and on the procedures used by organisations providing personal social services, with regard to the fulfilment of social workers’ institutional tasks and to the provison of the main categories of social welfare services in the four areas mentioned below.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will have grasped the technical and administrative knowledge and the relevant laws regulating the discretionary power and reflexivity of social work practitioners (in accordance with the Professional register) in the fields of mental health, re-education and social reintegration of persons with deviant behaviour and persons with addictions, assistance for immigrants.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The module is divided into 4 teaching units:

2. *Interventions for addiction problems*

– Structuring of the helping pathway in Addiction services and the main kinds of support

– The role of social workers in the administrative procedure for the possession of illicit drugs for personal use and in the reporting of drug use

– The role of social workers in alternatives to detention for drug addicts and alcoholics

– Dual diagnosis and collaboration with mental health services

– Prevention initiatives

1. *Interventions in the area of mental health*

– The most significant historical milestones in psychiatry and the current structure of mental health services.

– Helping pathways in Mental Health Centres and the main support provided by social services.

– Mental illness and co-occurring disorders: persons in prison or being discharged from Forensic Mental Health Hospitals; persons with addictions and collaboration with Pathological Addictions services; Migrants.

3. *Social services in connection with the criminal justice system*

– The penitentiary system for adults, relevant services, alternatives to detention. The tasks of the External Office for Criminal Sentencing. Social workers’ role and functions

– Presidential Decree 448/1988 and interventions for minors undergoing criminal proceedings: parties to the application of law with their respective functions, stages of criminal proceedings, techniques and procedures in re-education interventions in the area of juvenile criminal justice.

5. *Immigration issues*

– Outline of laws and bodies dealing with immigrants and their specific functions; procedures for entering Italy, for obtaining a residence permit, up to the possibility of becoming an Italian citizen.

– Interventions and available support, mediation processes and integration.

– Illegal immigration, an outline of the asylum seeking process and of the forms of protection which can be obtained by asylum seekers; protection of the vistims of trafficking.

– Unaccompanied Foreign Minors: terminological clarifications, protection interventions in Italy.

***READING LIST***

M.L. Raineri, *Linee guida e procedure di servizio sociale,* Fourth updated edition, Erickson, Trento, 2022 – The lecturer will specify the Chapters of the texts to be studied and the relevant legislation with the most recent updates during lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and fast exercises on practical cases.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed on the basis of a written exam with multiple choice questions. The mark will be out of thirty.

Students will be assessed both on their theoretical knowledge of procedures and on their demonstration that they are able to apply them reasonably in real-life work contexts, first of all in placement and internship activities.

The assessment of the module will count towards the overall assessment of the Social Work Methodology III course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are strongly advised to attend two-thirds of lessons. Student workers may agree on a personalised course programme with the lecturer. As it is introductory to the specific techniques of the four covered welfare areas, there are no specific prerequisites for students to attend the Module. Nevertheless, students may take the Module only if they have passed the corresponding procedural modules of the previous years of the course

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.