**Specialist Module with Workshop: Peer Relations and Bullying at School**

## Prof. Silvia Catania

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

The course aims to enable students to reflect on and experience issues related to the development of relationships between peers in normal and risky contexts, and offer an opportunity to learn and co-construct promotion and prevention intervention projects in the developmental and educational field.

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise and identify different types of relationships between peers, and to carry out the planning of a promotion and prevention intervention in the developmental and educational field. Specifically, students will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to outline general and specific objectives, identify direct and indirect recipients, and describe the methodologies and activities they intend using and proposing in their intervention.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on the development of relationships between peers in normal and risk contexts, and on the presentation of guidelines and indications regarding the construction of promotion and prevention projects in the developmental and educational field.

1. *The planning of a developmental and educational intervention*:

- Promoting well-being and preventing discomfort

- Why plan in a developmental and educational context: accompanying and strengthening normal relationships and preventing those at risk

- How and for whom to plan: identifying objectives, recipients, methodologies and activities

2. *Peer relationships in normal contexts:*

- Relationships in childhood: building friendship bonds and constructive conflict management

- Sentimental relationships in pre-adolescence and adolescence: towards building positive bonds

3. *Peer relationships in risky contexts:*

- Aggression in friendships: identifying and combatting bullying phenomena in childhood and adolescence

- Online aggression: cyberbullying and sexting

- Refusing relationships: social isolation and hikikomori

***READING LIST***

One text to be chosen from the following:

G. Gini-T. Pozzoli (2011), *Gli interventi anti-bullismo,* Carocci.

E. Menesini-A. Nocentini-B.E. Palladino (2017), *Prevenire e contrastare il bullismo e il cyberbullismo,* Il Mulino.

E. Confalonieri (2020), *Love skills in adolescenza. Come promuovere e sviluppare competenze nelle relazioni sentimentali,* Franco Angeli.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Guided practical activities in small groups and/or individually (role-playing, viewing of films, discussion of cases), combined with the presentation of short theoretical frameworks, will ensure the learning of theoretical knowledge and specialist analysis tools. During the course, students will be encouraged to analyse concrete cases (presented by the lecturer and/or identified by the students themselves drawn from news situations), as well as to constantly reflect on the design of effective interventions in the developmental and educational field.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral exam. Students will have to choose a course topic, agreed with the lecturer, to be explored in a small group paper. The paper will address a developmental and educational promotion and prevention project and will have to be organised according to the instructions that will be provided during the course, and delivered to the lecturer at the end of the course. The exam includes the oral discussion of the paper.

Students must demonstrate knowledge of peer relationships in normal and risky contexts, and the ability to identify and plan a promotion and prevention intervention within a developmental and educational context. The paper will be assessed on its completeness and accuracy, consistency with the course objectives, and its applicability to real contexts. The appropriateness of language used in the oral presentation of the paper will also be assessed.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must possess a good knowledge of the basic concepts underlying the main reference theories of typical developmental psychology.

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be communicated in good time to students.

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.