## **Theory of Helping Relationships**

## Prof. Marisa Musaio

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

The course aims to offer students a framework articulated around the educational assistance relationship as a specific skill of pedagogists and pedagogical advisors in relation to the increased framework of emergency and discomfort. In particular, the aim is to promote reflection on the knowledge and skills needed to exercise the assistance relationship in conditions of fragility, discomfort, suffering, loneliness, poverty and social reclusion, in view of the changing contexts of cities and suburbs, and with reference to the loneliness of the elderly.

At the end of course, students will be able to:

**-** Know and critically understand the pedagogical fundamentals of the educational helping relationship with reference to the problematic nature of the contemporary cultural context.

**-** Know and critically understand the pedagogical paradigm of the helping and caring relationship for individuals.

**-** Identify and discuss the forms of help, organising them according to the different needs and difficulties, resources and potential of people in conditions of fragility, physical and mental disability, marginalisation, loneliness, existential precariousness and social isolation.

**-** Justify, through adequate pedagogical arguments, the educational choices and the inclusive and promotional methods of intervention in relation to the different vulnerabilities and contexts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The main topics addressed during lectures will be the following:

**-** The pedagogical paradigm of the educability in considering vulnerabilities and potentialities of people.

**-** Pedagogical fundamentals, aims and modalities of the educational assistance relationship within the care paradigm.

**-** Educational priorities in contexts of emergency, fragility, precariousness, loneliness, poverty.

**-** The profile of the pedagogist and pedagogical consultant as a professional in the helping relationship.

***READING LIST***

M. Musaio, *Dalla distanza alla relazione. Pedagogia e relazione d’aiuto nell’emergenza*, Mimesis Edizioni, Milano-Udine, 2020.

M. Musaio (edited by), *Il pedagogista nei servizi alla persona e nelle politiche giovanili,* Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2019.

A reading textbook to choose from:

M. Musaio (edited by), *Persone anziane e cura. Riflessioni pedagogiche e narrazioni nel tempo della pandemia*, Edizioni Studium, Roma 2021.

M. Musaio (edited by), *Ripartire dalla città: prossimità educativa e rigenerazione nelle periferie*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2021, in corso di pubblicazione

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal and interactive lectures including in-depth study of experiences and intervention projects, supplemented with the vision, analysis and interpretation of film sequences and different forms of art to facilitate understanding, group practical exercises, listening to experienced people and experts on the issues addressed in the course.

The lecture materials will be made available to students on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The course includes a final oral exam starting from the January-February session. During the exam, the following aspects will be verified: clarity of presentation, in-depth knowledge and critical reflection on the topics covered in class and, starting from the textbooks indicated in the reading list, ability to argue pedagogical themes with a subject-specific lexicon, ability to apply knowledge acquired to the interpretation of educational situations and to helping relationship interventions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisite for the course is the knowledge of some fundamental pedagogical notions, which represent one of the specific requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme.

*In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified 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.