# Applied Sociology (Modules: Family Sociology; Sociology of Deviance)

## Prof. Nicoletta Pavesi

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

Family Sociology Module

The Family Sociology module is designed to introduce students to tools for critically analysing the various phenomena affecting families in recent years. It focuses on Italy and takes a dynamic approach to analysing the family. In particular, the course will guide students in learning the main approaches to studying the family when analysing: the main transitions in the family life cycle; the associated risks; and the internal and external resources for dealing with them. In particular, the module intends to introduce students to the main approaches to the studying of the family in order to analyse the principal transitions in the family life cycle, the associated risks, and the internal and external resources for dealing with them. Some critical elements in family biographies will be discussed, such as: family-work reconciliation; migration; disability.

At the end of the course, students will have good knowledge of the topics covered during the course, enabling them to describe, with a suitable degree of expertise and awareness, the transitions that families must undergo throughout their life cycles, the potential risk conditions and the responses that formal and informal networks can offer to support families throughout their development. Moreover, students will be able to use qualitative information and quantitative data to study families, both synchronically and diachronically.

Sociology of Deviance Module

This module aims to provide students with some basic skills for interpreting and understanding phenomena linked to deviance. In particular, the module will guide students in defining the concepts of deviance, distress, social control and marginalisation, highlighting their cultural and contextual dimensions. The course will study main theories on deviance and social control, which will then be applied to analysing situations of deviance in contemporary society.

By the end of the course, students will be able to orient themselves critically between the various interpretative theoretical models presented on the course, and will be able to apply them to the specific cases of deviance proposed. They will also be able to understand the implications of the different models in terms of the guidelines for policies and interventions implemented by professionals, especially in the field of social work.

Moreover, students will be able to take a critical approach to narratives on shared feelings about deviant phenomena, not least by developing the capacity to obtain information and data through scientific research, enabling them to direct their own professional action as social workers in accordance with the specific form of deviance concerned.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Family Sociology Module

The course will introduce some perspectives (approaches) for the sociological reading of the phenomena involving family, applying them to specific transitions of the history of family life (couple formation, parenthood, the trade-off between the work for the market and family relationships, old age, migration). Furthermore, the course will analyse the family support services offered to families by public and private profit and non-profit organisations during the different stages of the life-cycle, also through the presentation of case studies.

Sociology of Deviance Module

This module will focus on topics such as deprivation and deviance from a theoretical perspective and with reference to the most relevant sociological approaches. In particular, the different meanings of the concepts of deprivation, deviance, marginality and diversity will be examined. In addition, the course will analyse the theories on deviance and social control, with specific attention to their application to better understand some phenomena linked to deprivation and deviance (drug addiction, juvenile delinquency, trafficking, etc.) The in-depth study will focus on the topic of Unaccompanied foreign minors (UAMs/SC).

***READING LIST***

On the Family Sociology module:

P. Donati-P. Di Nicola, *Lineamenti di sociologia della famiglia,* Carocci, Roma, 2002 (o edizioni posteriori). I capitoli: 2, 3 e 4.

Choose one of the following:

N. Pavesi, *Disabilità e welfare nella società multietnica,* FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2017.

G.G. Valtolina, (a cura di) *Le nuove sfide delle famiglie migranti*, Franco Angeli, Milano, in corso di pubblicazione

M. Naldini, C. Saraceno, *Conciliare Famiglia e lavoro*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2011

Reference texts for Sociology of Deviance are:

D. Scarcelli, O. Vidoni Guidoni, *La devianza*, Carocci Editore, Rome, 2008.

N. Pavesi, G. Valtolina, *Buone pratiche per l’accoglienza dei minori non accompagnati* *Sistemi di inclusione e fattori di resilienza in Italia*, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Both modules will be characterised by frontal lectures and active learning methods based on discussions and the direct involvement of students, also through the presentation of real-life experiences and the use of audiovisual material. In addition, students will have the possibility to make presentations in class and meet subject matter experts. Finally, they will be invited to carry out practical activities aimed to apply the concepts they have learnt to the reading and understanding of social realities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral exam.

Family Sociology Module

The exam will assess:

* Knowledge of fundamental concepts of the discipline
* Knowledge of main approaches towards the study of family
* Knowledge of the relations between family and the welfare system
* Knowledge of the main issues and intervention strategies of services for foreign families with problems of disability

Sociology of Deviance Module

The exam will assess:

* Knowledge of the fundamental concepts of the discipline
* Knowledge of main theories on deviance
* Knowledge of the implications of the various theories in terms of policies and social interventions
* Knowledge of the UAMs/SC phenomena, of the policies and services for reception and social inclusion

Foe both modules the assessment criteria will be the following:

a) Correct answers

b) Complete answers

c) Presentation clarity

d) Use of appropriate and specialist language

e) Analytical skills

f) Critical thinking skills

g) Ability to apply theories and concepts to understand social phenomena

h) the ability to find links between different concepts

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To take the Applied Sociology exam, students must have already passed the General Sociology course.

The Family Sociology and Sociology of Deviance exams can be taken on the same or separate exam dates. The final mark will be based on the average of the two marks achieved and can be registered after both exams have been passed.

Lecture slides are available on Blackboard, but are NOT a substitute for studying the texts.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment 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.