# Ethics and Professional Conduct

## Prof. Paolo Gomarasca

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

Course aims:

The course will address the two main levels of ethical analysis in the social services. More specifically, the theoretical level and the practical-deliberative level:

1. Theoretical level: analysis of the ethical and political level of the professional role of social workers, including in accordance with the provisions of the ethical code.

2. Practical-deliberative level: preliminary illustration of the main practical reasoning and ethical problem-solving methods; presentation and discussion of case studies representative of characteristically ethical dilemmas, i.e. when the best course of action in terms of the welfare of the clients and users engaged in an aid project is not immediately clear.

Intended learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will:

a) be able to use their knowledge of theory to justify the triple link between ethical awareness, ethical code and quality of the professional service offered;

b) know the main types of decision making in ethics and identify the important moral dilemmas for the profession.

2. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

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

a) make links between the case studies analysed and the relevant regulations implemented in the ethical code.

b) develop the requisite basic deliberative skills for dealing with ethical dilemmas, promoting spaces for debate and discussion.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Social services as a set of instruments designed to promote and develop the abilities of persons in difficulty.

2. Vulnerability and ethical and political implications.

3. The social worker's ethical dilemmas and the ethical code.

4. The ethics of care.

5. Discussion of case studies.

***READING LIST***

For attending students:

S. Banks-K. Nohr (ed.), L’etica in pratica nel servizio sociale. Casi e commenti in prospettiva internazionale, It. tr. Erikson, Trento, 2014.

A. Rossiter, L’etica di Lévinas e il lavoro sociale, in “Lavoro sociale”, 2011, 11 (2): 163-178.

Details of further reading will be provided during the course.

For non-attending students

In addition to the texts for attending students:

M. Nussbaum, *Persona oggetto*, tr. it. Erickson, Trento, 2014.

M. Barnes, Storie di caregiver. Il senso della cura, It. tr. Erickson, Trento, 2010.

E.F. Kittay, La cura dell’amore. Donne, uguaglianza, dipendenza, It. tr. Vita&Pensiero, Milan, 2010.

***TEACHING METHOD***

– Frontal lectures.

– Practical activities (presentation and discussion of cases).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam as follows: two questions on the theoretical part, one question on the ethical code and one question on a case study. The exam will be marked out of 30 using the following criteria:

a) ability to make effective arguments and analytical rigour regarding the topics covered by the course, as well as knowledge of the regulatory structure of the ethical code (40%);

b) ability to identify an ethical dilemma, relate it correctly to the ethical code and apply the appropriate problem-solving methodology (40%);

c) use of language and communicative skills demonstrated during the exam (20%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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.