# Research into Education Work

## Prof. Cristina Lisimberti

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

***Course Aims***

The course aims to provide basic knowledge, promote the acquisition of application skills, and introduce the development of methodological skills useful for becoming familiar with the field of empirical research in the educational field.

***Intended learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will know:

– the characteristics and specificities of research in the educational field, with particular attention to contexts and services aimed at children

- the empirical research strategies in the educational field

- the articulation of the empirical research process

- the main data collection tools

– how to appropriately choose devices and tools for data collection.

*Apply knowledge and understanding*

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

- correctly use the specific language of the discipline

- read, understand, and critically analyse empirical research reports in the educational field

- identify and build survey devices to be used in educational contexts.

*“Independent judgement”, “Communication skills” and “Learning skills”*

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

– exercise an articulated ability to judge particularly useful for distinguishing the quality of the devices and the results of empirical research projects in multiple application fields;

– effectively communicate and argue the methodological choices made both in research contexts and, more generally, in educational work;

– critically learn from one's own experience by implementing reflective working methods.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will provide and in-depth analysis of the following themes:

a. Research as a resource for educational work

b. Research as an opportunity for educational services (with particular attention to childcare services)

c. The main types of empirical research

d. The design of an empirical research (phases, tasks)

e. The tools for data collection (observational methods, questionnaires, interviews)

f. Examples of empirical research in and for childcare services

***READING LIST***

K. Montalbetti, C. Lisimberti (2015). *Ricerca e professionalità educativa. Risorse e strumenti*. Lecce: Pensa Multimedia.

S. Stanzani (edited by) (2020). *Bisogni delle famiglie e servizi educativi per l’infanzia. Una ricerca nel Comune di Mantova*. Milano: Franco Angeli\*.

\* Upon request, various texts relating to empirical research conducted in other professional fields may be recommended.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course involves the use of complementary teaching strategies: guided lessons and practical activities; the latter, in particular, will offer students the opportunity to critically reflect on research in the educational field and to mobilise the knowledge and skills acquired through the construction of simple empirical research devices.

Course materials made available on Blackboard form an integral part of the reading list.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

***Assessment method***

The exam consists of an oral interview and is aimed at verifying the students’ knowledge, application skills and (initial) methodological skills.

To access the oral interview, students must submit a paper (at least 2 weeks before the exam session date) aimed at mobilising methodological skills. The paper will be drawn up starting from the format made available on the Blackboard platform and will be awarded from 0 to 5 points. If the assessment outcome is insufficient (equal to 0 points) student will not be allowed to access the oral interview.

 The oral interview will focus on verifying the contents included in the reading list through the use of general and reasoning questions, also starting from the products created by the students. In this case, the points awarded will be from 0 to 26, which will be added to those awarded to the written paper (from 1 to 5).

***Assessment criteria***

For the assessment of the paper, the following criteria will be taken into account: compliance with the format; completeness and correctness of the information entered; consistency, internal validity and ability to justify the methodological choices made; ability to critically re-elaborate the work carried out.

The following criteria will be taken into account for the assessment: correctness and quality of the answers provided, command of the language, clarity of presentation, reasoning skills and analytical rigour, ability to re-elaborate content in a critical way, quality of logical and methodological argumentation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

***Notes***

* Course attendance, although not compulsory, is strongly recommended.

Students are required to regularly consult the lecturer's webpage and the Blackboard IT platform where notices and updates will be communicated from time to time.

***Prerequisites***

As it is introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.