Sociology of Family and Community Relations

Prof. Lucia Boccacin

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

The course aims to offer students a theoretical framework and operational tools with which to contextualise and support relational processes involving families and community subjects: particular attention will be paid to the knowledge and analysis of services aimed at individuals and families, such as family communities, family services carried out in partnership or with the participation of several social subjects.

In this way, it will be possible for students to develop adequate competence in the promotion and realisation of reticular and intersubjective practices, as well as offer services to the individual and the family for the purpose of subjective, interpersonal and community well-being.

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

– analyse, with specific sociological skills, the needs of the recipients of interventions in daily life communities.

– make a personal contribution in their team work with other professionals working in the field of personal and family services.

– contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of personal and family services by establishing partnerships with other entities active in the area.

– intervene at the meso level in coordinating networks of relationships and partnerships, so as to facilitate the development of good practices in personal and family services within the local communities of reference.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on the theoretical and practical acquisition of operative models in which relationships can be defined as a strategic resource to build a professional profile appropriate to promote and coordinate networks of relationships and partnerships. Special attention will be paid to organisational contexts that provide services and interventions for people and families in difficulty.

During the course the following topics will be discussed:

* Contemporary society: actors and characteristics.
* The relational AGIL scheme as a tool for analysing the social reality.
* Relations between family and community: which social processes contribute to create and re-create social ties?
* Social partnerships: conceptualisation and typologies.
* Community Interpersonal and digital networks
* Primary and secondary social capital.
* Best practices in services to people and families.
* Partnership, social capital, and best practices: an emerging evaluation model.
* Relational competence as a specific resource in building a professional profile.

***READING LIST***

1. G. Rossi-L. Boccacin(edited by), *Capitale sociale e partnership tra pubblico, privato e terzo settore. Casi di buone pratiche nei servizi alla famiglia,* vol., I Franco Angeli, Milan, 2007.

2. P. Terenzi-L. Boccacin-R. Prandini (eds.)*, Lessico della sociologia relazionale,* Società Editrice il Mulino, Bologna, 2016, solely parts: *Bene relazionale, Politica sociale, Privato sociale/Terzo settore, Relazione sociale, Rete sociale, Reti informali, Servizi sociali relazionali, Schema AGIL, Refero, Religo, Rischio sociale,* *Welfare relazionale, Welfare society.*

3. L. Boccacin (edited by), *Generare relazioni di comunità nell’era del digitale,* Morcelliana-Scholè, Brescia, 2022, chapters 1, 2, 3,4, 9, 10, 11, 12.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures and active teaching sessions, making use of the Blackboard IT platform accessible on the Università Cattolica website.

During lectures, didactic support materials (summary slides and analytical diagrams) will be used to facilitate the understanding of the topics examined. Students will have access to this supplementary material made available on the Blackboard platform.

The active teaching sessions proposed during the course will aim to encourage the empirical development of the topics covered during lectures and to carry out relevant simulations.

Students’ acquisition of the competences will be verified at the conclusion of the main topics addressed through some online tools available on the Blackboard platform; this assessment will be included in the final score assigned during the examination.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral interview on the topics covered during the course.

The assessment criteria refer to students' adequate knowledge and use of categories of analysis and methods presented during the course, with specific reference to the establishment and strengthening of family and community relation networks (from 1 to 15 points), appropriate subject-specific lexis (from 1 to 5 points), relevant argumentation skills (from 1 to 5 points), and a personal and critical elaboration of the topics (from 1 to 5 points).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

A basic knowledge of the main concepts of sociology is appropriate. Students who have no previous experience in the discipline should consult a Sociology manual as preparation: the lecturer is available to offer indications in this regard.

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.