# History of Education

## Prof. Elisa Mazzella

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

The course offers students the opportunity to focus on and ponder the topic of birth, motherhood and the relationship between mother and child from the Age of the Enlightenment up to the mid-twentieth century. Specifically, the course aims are:

1. Outline the main changes to the act of giving birth and the people involved as from the end of the eighteenth century from an inter-disciplinary perspective;
2. Outline the positives and negatives in regard to motherhood in the modern and contemporary age;
3. Promote the development of a critical approach to the study of the subject, while identifying causes and long-term relations between the past and present.

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

1. Recognise the main stages of the history of motherhood from the Age of the Enlightenment to the early twentieth century;
2. Consider the complexity of changes affecting the act of giving birth as from the mid-eighteenth century;
3. Develop critical reading and independent reading of historical, social and cultural dynamics which characterise the rejection of motherhood.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course focuses on the topic of giving birth, the advent of the first obstetricians, motherhood and the relationship between mother and child from the Age of the Enlightenment up to the beginning of the twentieth century, with a particular emphasis on practical and educational aspects. In addition, the course explores the topic of abandonment, abortion and infanticide, complex and painful acts which will be discussed by looking at their historical causes.

***READING LIST***

E. Mazzella, *Comari patentate. La scuola per levatrici nella Novara dell’Ottocento,* Unicopli, Milan, 2012, page 120.

J.H. Pestalozzi, *Sull’infanticidio,* G. Di Bello (edited by), La Nuova Italia, Milan, 1999, page 152

N.M. Filippini, *Il cittadino non-nato e il corpo della madre,* in M. D’amelia (edited by), *Storia della maternità*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1997, pages 111-137.

E. Mazzella, *Narrazioni di vita. Nascere a La Casa del Parto di Milano dagli Anni Cinquanta a oggi,* «Rivista di Storia dell’Educazione», 2/2016, pp. 75-82.

E. Mazzella, *Una storia a più voci: ostetriche e madri si raccontano.*

*Nascere in casa tra gli anni Cinquanta e Settanta del Novecento*, in P. Malavasi, M. Fabbri, A. Rosa, I. Vannini (edited by), *Sistemi educativi, l’orientamento e il lavoro*, Pensa MultiMedia, Lecce, 2023, in printing.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of lectures and discussion, the aim is to introduce and examine the main content of the course. Lectures will include critical reading of historical data and the viewing of film material. All course material will be available online on the Blackboard platform: http://blackboard.unicatt.it.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral interview on the official dates of the examination roll call. The examination will test students’ assimilation and understanding of the subject material, the reading and teaching material posted on Blackboard.

Students will be assessed on accuracy and quality of their answers, their presentation and critical skills during the examination and ability to connect general questions with the in-depth reading.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are strongly advised to make use of the material and information available online. 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.