## **Theory of Helping Relationships**

## Prof. Marisa Musaio

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

The course aims to offer students an articulated picture of the helping educational relationship as a specific competence of the pedagogist and pedagogical consultant. In view of the increased contemporary frailty situation, the aim of the course is to develop a reflection on the knowledge and skills necessary to exercise the helping relationship with specific reference to the pedagogical consultancy activity performed with people who are fragile, distressed, affected by existential suffering, loneliness, aging, within the different contexts and educational services of cities and suburbs.

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

**-** Know and critically understand the pedagogical fundamentals of the educational helping relationship with reference to the problematic nature of the contemporary cultural context.

**-** Know and critically understand the pedagogical paradigm of the helping and caring relationship for individuals.

**-** Identify and discuss the forms of help, organising them according to the different needs and difficulties, resources and potential of people in conditions of fragility, physical and mental disability, marginalisation, loneliness, existential precariousness and social isolation.

**-** Justify, through adequate pedagogical arguments, the educational choices and the inclusive and promotional methods of intervention in relation to the different vulnerabilities and contexts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The main topics addressed during lectures will be the following:

**-** Pedagogical fundamentals, aims, modalities of the educational assistance relationship within the care.

**-** Educational priorities in contexts of emergency, fragility, precariousness, loneliness, poverty.

**-** The profile of the pedagogist and pedagogical consultant as a professional in the helping relationship.

***READING LIST***

M. Musaio (edited by), *Ripartire dalla città: prossimità educativa e rigenerazione nelle periferie*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2021.

M. Musaio, *Dalla distanza alla relazione. Pedagogia e relazione d’aiuto nell’emergenza*, Mimesis Edizioni, Milano-Udine, 2020.

Un testo di lettura a scelta tra i seguenti:

F. Marone – M. Musaio – M. Pesare (edited by), *Educazione, relazioni, affetti. Oltre la pandemia,* Armando, Roma, 2023.

M. Musaio (edited by), *Persone anziane e cura. Riflessioni pedagogiche e narrazioni nel tempo della pandemia*, Edizioni Studium, Roma 2021.

M. G. Riva, *La consulenza pedagogica. Una pratica sapiente tra specifico pedagogico e connessioni dei saperi*, FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2021.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures based on a dialogic and interactive method, with insights into experiences, projects, interventions by experts on the topics of the course, including viewing, analysing and interpretating film sequences, supported by different language and artistic forms for the helping relationship, and including group practical exercises.

The lecture materials will be made available to students on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The course includes a final oral exam starting from the January-February 2024 session. During the exam, the following aspects will be verified: clarity of presentation, in-depth knowledge and critical reflection on the topics covered in class and, starting from the textbooks indicated in the reading list, ability to argue pedagogical themes with a subject-specific lexicon, ability to apply knowledge acquired to the interpretation of educational situations and to helping relationship interventions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisite of the course is the knowledge of the fundamental concepts of pedagogy as a specific requirement for admission to the master's degree 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.