## **Ethics of care**

## Prof. Paolo Gomarasca

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

Course objectives:

The course aims to illustrate and discuss the theory of *ethics of care* as a reference model of social work. More specifically, the course will focus on the constructing and justifying the link between aid processes and cooperative-participatory dynamics, from a strictly ethical and political angle, with particular reference to the work of the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

Intended learning outcomes:

1. Knowledge and understanding

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

1) navigate critically in the contemporary reflection on the ethical and political status of the Social Work profession, by learning the main institutional actors of the debate, the main norms and reference codes, and the different positions discussed in the academic field;

2) justify the correlation between Social Work and the defence of human rights, by practically designing and implementing anti-oppressive practices.

2. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

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

1) identify the ethical and deontological challenges of the profession, developing a particular sensitivity to the human rights of vulnerable people involved in aid processes;

2) adopt a critical and dialogical methodology, both in the phase of identifying and building social work frontier problems at a global level, and in the deliberative phase of searching for shared solutions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts. The first part will analyse two fundamental concepts of ethics of care: empathy and participation. Every concept will be illustrated and discussed in relation to the ongoing current debate at the International level of social work as a human right profession and on its intervention practices in contexts of aid and fight against discrimination. The second part of the course will examine the ethical and political relevance of social work in poverty contests particularly referring to hunger and how facing it.

Part I: *Ethics of care*

1. Social Work as a profession based on human rights
2. Human needs and human rights;
3. Ethics of care and political participation;
4. The connection between empathy and participation.

Part II: *In-depth study*

1. Social Work and poverty;
2. The hunger a “crime against humanity”

***READING LIST***

For students attending lectures, in addition to topics covered in class

Part I

United Nations, *Dichiarazione Universale dei Diritti Umani* (1948)

P. Gomarasca, *Etica del cibo*, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2021.

A. Heller, *La teoria dei bisogni in Marx*, tr. it. Feltrinelli, Milan, 1978.

Part II

P. Freire, *La pedagogia degli oppressi (1968)*, EGA-Edizioni Gruppo Abele, Turin, 2018.

For students not attending lectures, in addition to the above mentioned for attending students:

P. Bettineschi, *Etica del riparare*, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2021.

T. Pogge, *Povertà mondiale e diritti umani. Responsabilità e riforme cosmopolite*, tr. it. Laterza, Roma-Bari 2010.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Course: frontal lectures and class discussion on analysed issues.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed through an oral exam which is structured as follows: two questions with reference to the theoretical model (ethics of care) and two questions on ethical and political commitment of Social Work in the fight against poverty. The mark is out of thirty and the assessment will be based on the following criteria:

a) relevance of answers and logical coherence of discourse (40%);

b) mastery of specific terminology and students’ ability to establish and justify argumentative links, in relation to topics and concepts developed during the course (40%);

c) communication skills shown during the oral exam (20%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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.