* 1. **Legislation for the Protection of Children and other Vulnerable Subjects**

## Prof. Claudia Mazzucato

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

The course is designed to provide students with a solid advanced understanding of the system of protection of minors and juveniles, of the legislation concerning other situations of vulnerability, and of the current legislation on delinquency that calls for social work interventions. Building on the basics and on fundamentals, this Master’s degree course aims in particular to stimulate a higher cultural comprehension of the topics and a better professional proficiency in light of a greater capacity to integrate social work into the national and international regulatory framework. The course constantly focuses on emerging social problems and legal trends: it therefore acquaints students with the new challenges for both the legal system and social work. The course is supplemented by practical classes and specific experiences in the perspective of social work in the criminal, penitentiary and juvenile fields.

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

- know the framework of current provisions on vulnerable subjects, with particular reference to minors, victims of crime, migrants, persons subjected to criminal measures;

- orientate themselves among legal institutions and existing measures and to know how to make appropriate regulatory references;

- know the relevant aspects of social work in favour of vulnerable subjects as foreseen by law and to know how to carry out the necessary interdisciplinary connections to methodologies and social work procedures;

- describe and comment on topics dealt with appropriate technical (legal and social) language;

- present and propose appropriate critical reflections regarding the politics of law and social policies relating to vulnerable subjects within the framework of constitutional principles and European law and in the light of principles and methods of social work.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Legislation for the protection of children and adolescents.*

The most current issues of juvenile and family law. Migrant children. Children and adolescents in the health system. Juveniles and sexuality. Juveniles and drug addiction. Cyberbullying. Legal and jurisprudential trends concerning parenthood, adoption and foster care.

2. *Protection of victims of crime*.

The rights, assistance, protection and position of victims of crime in criminal proceedings in the light of international, European and national legislation. The role of social work in the support, assistance and protection of crime victims. The assessment of individual protection needs. Child victims and other vulnerable groups of victims.

3. *Criminal and civil justice reforms.*

Legislative Decree 10 October 2022, n. 149: the reform of family and juvenile civil justice. Legislative Decree 10 October 2022, n. 150: the reform of criminal justice with particular reference to substitutive sanctions and restorative justice.

4*. Organisational crime, corporate crime and corporate violence, environmental crime.*

Business and human rights: challenges in a social work perspective. Corporate violence: victims, defendants and responsible persons.

5. *Migrations and vulnerability.*

Fundamentals of migration law. Victimisation of migrants and non-citizens.

6. *Rebuilding social bonds after collective violence and mass atrocities.*

The emergence of international criminal law. Models of justice and responses to collective violence and to gross violations of human rights: an overview. International core crimes – genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crime of aggression: an overview. Victims of international crimes. Peacebuilding and social work.

7. *Drug abuse and addiction.*

Non-therapeutic personal use of drugs. Criminal and administrative offences. Rehabilitation of offenders suffering from drug addiction. Socio-rehabilitation therapeutic programmes.

***READING LIST***

Study material and reading list will be made available on *Blackboard* platform. Access and consultation of *Blackboard* are therefore essential and mandatory for all students. In any case, students must *compulsorily* consult the relevant and updated legal sources.

*Course attendance.*

Regular attendance is strongly advised, due to the wide range and variety of topics addressed in the course. Constant reference to and reliance on online teaching materials and lecture notes is essential for study purposes and exam preparation.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lecture-style presentations and interactive lectures, active participation, case studies, and possibly guest lectures and seminars with experts and testimonies (see below).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral and aims to assess students’ achievement of the expected learning outcomes (see above) with particular reference to full acquisition of the course concepts and to critical understanding of the problems presented. During the oral exam, students will be tested on their knowledge of key concepts, on their proficiency in comprehension and autonomous analysis of major legal concepts, and on their confident ability to refer to legal sources. Critical awareness of the issues at stake, mastery in appropriately referring to the fundamental and constitutional principles, and to establish interdisciplinary connections, together with the acquisition of the specialized terminology play a major part in the final assessment and in the grading scale. Mere knowledge of the topics without a critical understanding of the main issues and of the social work professional matters will not be considered sufficient to pass the exam. Only partial and/or superficial knowledge of the topics will also be considered insufficient.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Due to the specialist nature of the course, students are expected to have basic knowledge of criminal and family law. Students who have not studied these topics during their three-year degree will be provided with special supplementary study materials, to compulsorily complement the teaching content. Information on this will be provided during the first lectures.

International exchange students and Erasmus students who wish to enrol in this course must be fully fluent in both written and spoken Italian especially with respect to the legal terminology. They must be able to understand, comment and discuss complex legal texts in Italian.

*Complementary teaching activities*

The course is complemented by a series of lectures (10 hours) titled "Privacy and data protection in social work interventions" held by Dr. Marta Lamanuzzi.

Other activities concerning the study of judicial proceedings and the participation in judicial hearings are also usually proposed during the course.

Information at this regard will be given at the beginning of the course.

*Office hours*

Upon appointment.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage or on *Blackboard*.