# Methodology of Social Work 1 (with Modules on Principles and Foundations of Social Work and Procedures and Techniques of Social Work)

## Prof. Maria Luisa Raineri; Prof. Valentina Calcaterra; Prof. Giulia Avancini

## Module 1: *Methodology of Social Work* (Prof. Maria Luisa Raineri)

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

The module aims to introduce the central concepts in terms of the operational methodology of social work in general, and the functions of social workers in particular. These concepts will be analysed by identifying their connections with the main principles of social work and contextualising them within the framework of the contributions of various classic social service theorists.

At the end of the course, students will have mastered the main analytical distinctions underlying professional reasoning. In general, they will be able to differentiate and interconnect the various areas within the social services (social policy, social services and welfare policy and social work) as well as the various professions (clinical and social) operating in the welfare systems, with particular reference to the specific responsibilities of social workers (professional social services).

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The concept of well-being in social work.

1.1 Well-being, needs and aspirations; self-sufficiency, self-realisation, other-realisation.

1.2 Well-being as the ability to act: the bio-psycho-social model of well-being

1.3 Personal subsets of the capacity for action and the environment.

1.4 Concepts of welfare, wellness, wellbeing

2. The specific nature of social work.

2.1 The integrated perspective of social work and factors differentiating social work professionals from clinical professionals.

2.2 The particular perspective of social work and differences compared to social policy.

3. The two fundamental modes of social work: provision of social support and open assistance.

4. The conceptual distinctions between profession, craft, method, technique and procedure.

5. The four fundamental objectives of social work: assistance, remedial action, prevention and promotion.

6. Conceptual distinctions among social care and social work (between social work and social services).

7. Distinctions and connections between the job of a social worker and other similar professions.

***READING LIST***

F. Folgheraiter, *Teoria e metodologia del servizio sociale,* FrancoAngeli, Milan, 1998 (first part: pp. 23-190; chap. 9 from page 507 to page 528).

F. Folgheraiter, *Scritti scelti,* Erickson, Trento, 2016 (only chapters: 1, 29, 31, 37, 41, 45, 46).

F. Basaglia, *Scritti,* Il saggiatore, Milan, 2017 (the following chapters: Il concetto di salute e malattia A proposito della nuova L.180 La distruzione dell’ospedale psichiatrico come luogo di istituzionalizzazione · Dare un nome all’oppressione Le istituzioni della violenza)

L. Milani, *Scuola di Barbiana,* *Lettera a una professoressa*, Libreria Editrice Fiorentina, Florence, 1967.

One or two short articles from online magazines *The new social worker* (*http://www.socialworker.com/)* or *Social Work News* (<https://www.mysocialworknews.com>) to be agreed with the lecturer at least fifteen days before the exam date.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures and brief practical exercises in small groups.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment for Methodology of Social Work 1 Module will cover the content of lectures, the texts on the reading list and the material published on the lecturer's webpage.

The exam will be in written format with 10 open questions. In the event that the teacher considers it appropriate, an oral examination may be required, in which students may be asked to expand on or make connections to the answers they provided in the written assessment. An important assessment criterion contributing to the final mark will be students’ ability develop initial links between the abstract concepts and practical/operational requirements that emerged from the experience of the placement in the first year.

The exam result for the Methodology of Social Work 1 Module will also take into account the marks for the other two modules making up the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

Students must attend at least two-thirds of the lectures. Working students may arrange a personalised syllabus with the lecturer. The module is introductory in nature and has no specific prerequisites other than a general awareness of the meaning of interpersonal assistance practices and basic relational sensibility. Accordingly, it is recommended that students read the following introductory text: N. Thompson, *Lavorare con le persone: far emergere il meglio dalle relazioni*, Erickson, Trento, 2016.

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.

Module 2: *Principles and Foundations of Social Service* (Prof. Valentina Calcaterra)

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

The course is designed to introduce students to the essential ethical and deontological concepts required to understand the profession of social worker. There will be a particular focus on underlying values, with reference to the *Codice deontologico nazionale degli assistenti sociali* (“National code of conduct for social workers”). One course aim is to explore the development that, from its origin, has brought the profession to its current state. At the end of the course, students will have mastered the principles and key concepts of the profession, as well as those that make the social workers’ ethical code intelligible and usable in practice.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* The principles and cardinal values of the profession of social worker.
* The concepts of need, lack and desire.
* The ethical dimension in social services (ethical aspects, ethical problems and ethical dilemmas).
* The social workers’ ethical code and international ethical references.
* The origins and development of professional social work in the international and national spheres.

***READING LIST***

F. Biffi-A. Pasini, *Principi e Fondamenti di Servizio Sociale,* Erickson, Trento, 2022.

*Codice Deontologico dell’Assistente Sociale*, *CNOAS,* 2020.

Details of any further reading material will be provided in lectures and indicated on the lecturer’s webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures and discussions in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For the *Principles and Foundations of Social Service* module, students will be assessed by means of a written assessment, designed to evaluate their

a) understanding of course contents;

b) capacity for understanding and explaining ethical and deontological principles and the relative operative implications in their own words.

Students will be marked out of 30 based on their ability to make effective, well-supported arguments, the analytical rigour they demonstrate in relation to the themes discussed on the course, and on their clarity of expression and quality of writing.

The results of the assessment for Module II will be used to calculate the average mark for the course (module I).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must attend at least two-thirds of the lectures. Working students may arrange a personalised syllabus with the lecturer. The module is introductory in nature and has no specific 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.

## Module 3: *Procedures and techniques of the social services* (Prof. Giulia Avancini)

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

The course is designed to introduce students to basic knowledge of the most common working practices within organisations that manage social services, in relation to fulfilling the institutional functions of the role of social worker and to delivering the main forms of social welfare in the three specific areas listed below. At the end of the course, students will have mastered the technical knowledge and regulations governing social workers’ discretion and capacity for reflection (as prescribed by the professional body) in terms of administration, institutional welfare and measures to address poverty, disability, lack of self-sufficiency and compulsory education.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is split into three general teaching units:

*– Teaching unit 1.* Basic elements on administrative procedures in public social services.

*– Teaching unit 2.* Techniques and procedures in interventions targeting adults with income and accommodation problems.

*– Teaching unit 3.* Techniques and procedures in interventions designed for contexts of non-self-sufficiency, disability and compulsory education.

***READING LIST***

M.L. Raineri-F. Corradini*,* *Linee Guida e procedure di Servizio sociale. Manuale ragionato per lo studio e la consultazione* – 4th updated edition, Erickson, Trento, 2022 (chaps. 1-7 and chap. 9).

Details of further reading material will be provided during lectures.

Texts used for the practical exercises in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will combine lectures and exercises in small groups.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment for this module will cover the content of lectures, the texts on the reading list and the material published on the lecturer's webpage (students are advised to check this regularly).

Students will be assessed by means of a written test composed of 30 multiple choice and open- ended questions on the topics covered and indicated by the lecturer. Students will have approx. 60 minutes to complete the assessment. The assessment criteria are as follows: relevance of answers, appropriateness of content, summarising skills, clarity of presentation and grammatical, syntactical and lexical accuracy (for the open questions); identification of the correct answer (or not) among the various options proposed (for the multiple choice questions).

The results of the assessment for Module III will be used to calculate the average mark for the course (Module I).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must attend at least two-thirds of the lectures. Working students may arrange a personalised syllabus with the lecturer. The module is introductory in nature. Where it does require knowledge of specific regulatory elements, these will be introduced and later explored in the subsequent legal courses. For this reason, there are no particular 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.