# Applied Sociology

## Prof. Nicoletta Pavesi

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

sociology of the family module

The Sociology of the Family module aims to provide students with the tools for a critical analysis of phenomena which have been affecting families in recent years, with a specific focus on the Italian context, from a dynamic analysis perspective. More specifically, the aim is to assist students in acquiring knowledge on the main approaches adopted for the study of the family in order to analyse the main family life cycle transitions, the risks they entail, the internal and external resources required to face them. Some critical issues related to family life will be examined, including: work-family balance; migration; disability.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a good knowledge of the topics covered during the course, allowing them to describe in an adequate and informed manner family life cycle transitions, possible risk factors and the responses which formal and informal networks may activate in order to accompany families in the different stages of their life cycle. Furthermore, students will be capable of using qualitative information and quantitative data to study families synchronically and diachronically.

sociology of deviance module

It aims to provide students with basic competences in order to read and understand phenomena linked to deviance. More specifically, students are helped to understand the definition of the concepts of deviance, distress, social control, exclusion, highlighting cultural dimensions and context. The model will analyse the main deviance and social control theories which will be used to analyse deviant behaviour in contemporary society.

At the end of the course, students will have a critical understanding of the different interpretative theoretical models which have been illustrated and will be capable of applying them to specific case studies of deviant behaviour presented during the course. Moreover, students will have acquired the ability to understand the implications of the different models for policy-making and professional interventions, particularly in social work.

Furthermore, students, will be capable of critically dealing with common accounts on deviant behaviour, also thanks to their ability to draw information and data derived from scientific research, so as to adapt their professional input in social work to the specific deviance.

***COURSE CONTENT***

sociology of the family module

The course will cover some sociological perspectives (approaches) of phenomena related to families, applying them to specific family life cycle transitions (family founding, child bearing, family ties and work-life balance, child launching, migration, families with a person with disability). In addition, the module will cover family support measures which public and private sector profit and non-profit organisations offer to families during the different stages of their life cycle, also through the presentation of case studies.

sociology of deviance module

This module will cover the issues of distress and deviance starting from a theoretical perspective, with reference to the most important sociological approaches. More specifically, firstly there will be a focus on the different meaning of the concepts of distress, deviance, exclusion, marginality, diversity. Secondly, deviance and social control theories will be analysed, paying particular attention to their applications for the understanding of phenomena related to distress and deviance (drug addiction, juvenile delinquency, human trafficking, etc.). There will a special in-depth focus on the subject of Unaccompanied Foreign Minors (UFMs).

***READING LIST***

The reference texts for the Sociology of the Family module are:

P. Donati-P. Di Nicola, *Lineamenti di sociologia della famiglia,* Carocci, Rome, 2002 (or later editions). Chapters: 2, 3 and 4.

One of the following texts:

N. Pavesi, *Disabilità e welfare nella società multietnica,* Franco Angeli, Milan, 2017.

G.G. Valtolina, (edited by) *Le nuove sfide delle famiglie migranti*, Franco Angeli, Milan, forthcoming

The reference texts for the Sociology of Deviance module are:

D. Scarcelli, O. Vidoni Guidoni, *La devianza*, Carocci Editore, Rome, 2008.

N. Pavesi, G. Valtolina, *Buone pratiche per l’accoglienza dei minori non accompagnati Sistemi di inclusione e fattori di resilienza in Italia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

For both modules, the course will alternate between traditional frontal lectures and active methods with discussions and student participation, with the aid of real-life case studies and audiovisual tools. Furthermore, meetings will be organised for the presentation of research and discussions with specialist social workers. Moreover, students will be involved in activities which will enable them to apply acquired concepts to the interpretation and understanding of actual social reality.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists in an oral interview for each module. At the end of each interview, students will be marked out of thirty. The final mark will be the average of the marks of the two modules and may be registered after students have passed both oral tests.

sociology of the family module

During the exam, students will be assessed on the basis of:

* Knowledge of core concepts of the discipline
* Knowledge of the main approaches to the study of family life
* Knowledge of relationships between the families and welfare systems
* Knowledge of the main issues and of the intervention strategies of social services for the benefit of foreign families with disabilities

sociology of deviance module

During the exam, students will be assessed on the basis of:

* Knowledge of core concepts of the discipline
* Knowledge of the main deviance theories
* Knowledge of the implications of the different theories in terms of policies and social interventions
* Knowledge of the UFMs phenomenon, of reception and social inclusion policies and services

The following assessment criteria are applied for both modules

a) Correctness of answers

b) Completeness of answers

c) Clarity of presentation

d) Adequate use of disciplinary lexicon

e) Analytical skills

f) Critical skills

g) Ability to apply theories and concepts to the interpretation of social phenomena

h) Concept linking skills

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to take the Applied Sociology exam, students must have already have obtained a pass mark in the General Sociology course.

The exam of the Sociology of the Family module may be taken either separately or on the same date as the exam of the Sociology of Deviance module.

Lecture slides, which do not replace the study of reading list texts, are available on Blackboard.

*Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.*