# Social History

## Prof. Elena Riva; Prof. Enrico Berbenni

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

The aim of the course is to address European social history from the *Ancien Regime* to the contemporary era, with a particular focus on the development of practices of welfare and social services in the economic and social context that produced them. Students will focus in particular on interpreting these topics in light of citizenship.

In more detail, the intended learning outcomes of the course are:

1. to frame the socio-economic context within which the development of welfare and assistance takes place, highlighting the continuity and rupture between the modern and the contemporary age.
2. to raise awareness on how welfare and social assistance issues have historically emerged, focusing attention on subject-specific terminology, the sources and the general problems regarding historiographic interpretation;
3. to develop a critical approach to studying the discipline, focusing on the causal links and long-term relationships between past and present.

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

* position the main events in the history of social welfare and social services within long-term socio-economic transformations, acquiring an understanding of them also from an interdisciplinary perspective and with regard to citizenship;
* demonstrate knowledge and develop the ability to apply their skills, enabling them to implement education and formative interventions, including through awareness of underlying historical and cultural dynamics;
* communicate information on social history using specialised terminology;
* develop independence of judgement by drawing information from reference texts and the contemporary cultural debate.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured into two parts. One part (20 hours with Prof. Berbenni) will cover the main turning points in the economic history between the modern and contemporary age, and will provide the necessary conceptual background to understand and interpret the various requests for assistance and welfare over the centuries.

The rest of the course (20 hours with Prof. Riva) will focus on analysing the historical dynamics of complex societies. In addition to the general characteristics of social development interpreted in relation to the concept of citizenship, lectures will make particular reference to the development of welfare and social service practices in the modern and contemporary eras.

***READING LIST***

* R. Cutini, *Promuovere la democrazia. Storia degli assistenti sociali nell’Italia del secondo dopoguerra (1944-1860),* Viella, Rome, 2018 (This volume refers to the course held by Professor Riva).

-E. De Simone,*Storia economica. Dalla rivoluzione industriale alla rivoluzione informatica,* Franco Angeli, Milano, 2014, with the exception of chapters 8-14-16-20-28-30-31-33-34-35 (this volume refers to the part of the course taught by Professor Enrico Berbenni)

- Materials available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The general part of the course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures in class; the single-subject section may take the form of seminars, with scholars and specialists in the various fields, delivered in an interactive format. Material available to students will be optimised through the use of the Blackboard platform, available via the University website.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam. Students will take two oral exams, one on the first part of the course and the other one for the second part. The final mark will be the average of the two marks. The assessment criteria are as follows: ability to present information clearly (20%), overall knowledge of the subject (50%), critical thinking skills (15%), ability to connect general issues to the topics examined in the texts on the reading list (15%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites in terms of content.

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.