Syllabus
Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Theory and Research in Social Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code</td>
<td>53128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SPS/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Master in Innovation and Research for Social Work and Social Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course year</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total lecturing hours</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total lab hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>according to the regulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific educational objectives

This course has a double aim: on the one hand provides the students with fundamental knowledge and understanding from a sociological perspective in order to be able to widen contextualization of social profession issues; on the other hand it aims at fostering the capabilities to understand the role played by institutional, cultural, economic and political factors as potential origins of social problems from a critical perspective.

The scientific area of this course is General Sociology.

The course gives a general overview of scientific contents but is also designed for acquiring skills and knowledge in order to face professional issues.

Module 1

Social Work and Social Theory

Lecturer: Lorenz Walter

Scientific sector of the lecturer: SPS/07

Teaching language: English

Office hours: 18 (before or after the lectures; or on request)

List of topics covered

1. What constitutes “social reality”?
   a. Discovering the “laws of society” objectively - the importance of structural perspectives (Comte, Durkheim and followers)
   b. Listening to the meanings human beings give to their lived reality - the importance of agency (Weber, Schütz, Berger)
   c. Bringing structure and agency together in integrated perspectives (Parsons, Giddens, Mead, Goffman)
   d. The Theory of Communicative Action (Habermas)
2. The (contested) scientific nature of psychology
3. Homo economicus and his downfall
4. What is the “subject” of social work and what kind of knowledge lends itself to the understanding of “people...
5. “What is the wider significance of a professional title?” Social work, social pedagogy, community education, social care, animation …
6. “The personal (and the social) is political” – synthesizing an understanding of “social well-being” (capability approach; Otto, Kessl, Webb, Grey)
7. Working under conditions of uncertainty – social work and the polarizations revealed in the Corona crisis

**Teaching format**

This module is based on the active participation of students in the form of:
- Reflections on individual work and life experiences from various theoretical perspectives
- Careful reading of selected key texts in preparation of a discussion on the above topics
- Application of diverse theoretical perspectives on selected social practice scenarios through short written statements and interactive discussion

The first 4 sessions are held in personal presence, the rest can be attended via interactive video

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total lecturing/ lab hours</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Modulo 2 a)**

Produzione e applicazione della conoscenza nel lavoro sociale

**Docente**

Accorinti Marco

**Settore scientifico disciplinare del docente**

SPS/07

**Lingua ufficiale del corso**

Italiano

**Orario di ricevimento**

18 (dal lunedì al venerdì previo appuntamento)

**Lista degli argomenti trattati**

1. La conoscenza delle politiche e degli interventi sociali: le radici storiche del dibattito
2. Lavoro con le persone e metodo scientifico: un rapporto difficile
3. Tratti distintivi della ricerca nel campo degli interventi sociali: la questione della partecipazione nella produzione di informazione e conoscenza
4. Il disegno di ricerca: dai problemi emergenti alla definizione di ambiti di ricerca rilevanti
5. Costruzione degli strumenti, definizione del contesto di ricerca, rilevazione, analisi ed elaborazione dei dati
6. La relazione tra ricerca e pratiche: decidere e progettare con molteplici fonti di conoscenza

**Attività didattiche previste**

lezioni in presenza, lezioni videoregistrate, attività e-ivity (monitoraggio + feedback + video call) generali per la classe e per gruppi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Totale di ore di lezione/ laboratorio</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crediti formativi</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Modul 2 b)**

Wissenschaft und ihre kritische Anwendung in der sozialen Arbeit (Lab.)

**Dozent**

Nagy Andrea

**Wissenschaftlich-disziplinarer Bereich**

SPS/07

**Unterrichtssprache**

Deutsch
### Sprechstunden

9 (von Montag bis Freitag auf Anfrage)

### Auflistung der behandelten Themen

Übung zu folgenden Themen im Rahmen Partizipativer Praxisforschung Sozialer Arbeit
- Ein Praxisproblem in eine Forschungsfrage verwandeln
- Stakeholder identifizieren, die involviert werden sollten
- Forschungsmethoden
- Forschungsstrategien, Datensammlung, Ethische Fragen
- Dissemination im Sinne der Weiterentwicklung der Praxis

### Unterrichtsform

Vorlesungen, Übungen, Laboratorien, Projekte, etc.

### Gesamtanzahl Vorlesungstunden/Laboratoriumsstunden

15

### Kreditpunkte

6 (zusammen mit Modul 2a)

### Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes:

- **Knowledge and understanding of key concepts of sociology for social professions**;
- **Applying knowledge and understanding** approaching and using available evidence in social interventions with a critical perspective;
- **Making judgments through argumentations of the choices in everyday social practices and its impact on social relations**;
- **Communication skills such as argumentation of choices and interconnections of social perspectives in an own project**;
- **Learning skills such as the ability to use critically different sources of knowledge and critically use it in the different area of intervention**.

### Assessment

Written exam – project work with a final oral presentation and intermediary assessments on the lectures.

Esame scritto in forma di project work individuale, presentazione e discussione orale finale anche relativa agli argomenti del corso.

Lavori intermedi di valutazione sugli argomenti del corso.

### Assessment language

English and Italian

### Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

Criteria for the written exam will be the ability to evaluate, logical structure, ability to argue, accuracy and connections with the topics of the course.

The final oral presentation will assess the ability to evaluate, competent argumentation, critical analysis and summarizing skills, as well as reflectivity.

The final mark is the combination of the final written and
presented project.

Media tra elaborato scritto e presentazione orale.


| Supplementary readings | In due course |