Syllabus
Course description

Course title	Theory and Research in Social Work
Course code	53128
Scientific sector	SPS/07
Degree	Master in Innovation and Research for Social Work and Social Education
Semester	1st
Course year	1st
Credits	12
Modular	*Yes*

Total lecturing hours	60
Total lab hours	15
Attendance	according to the regulation
Prerequisites	

Specific educational objectives	This course has a double aim: on the on 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

	in a social and political context"
	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
Total lecturing/lab hours	*30*
Credits	*6*

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-tivity (monitoraggio + feedback + video call) generali per la classe e per gruppi
Totale di ore di lezione/ laboratorio	*30*
Crediti formativi	*6 (complessivamente con modulo 2b)*

Modul 2 b)	Wissenschaft und ihre kritische Anwendung in der sozialen Arbeit (Lab.)
Dozent	*Nagy Andrea*
Wissenschaftlich-disziplinärer 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 Vorlesungsstunden/ Laboratoriumsstunden	*15*
Kreditpunkte	*6 (zusammen mit Modul 2a)*

Learning outcomes **(The learning outcomes need to be arranged and defined among the lecturers of all modules. The coordinator of the modules is responsible for the provided data.)**	*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 **(The assessment needs to be arranged and defined among the lecturers of all modules. The coordinator of the modules is responsible for the provided data.)**	*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 **(The evaluation criteria need to be arranged and defined among the lecturers of all modules. The coordinator of the modules is responsible for the provided data.)**	Final mark 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.

Required readings	Fargion, S. (2019) *Il metodo del servizio sociale*, Carocci, Roma. Lucchini, M. (2018) *Metodologia della ricerca sociale*, Pearson, Monza Payne, M. (2005) *Modern Social Work Theory*, 3rd edn. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Thorpe C. (2018) *Social Theory for Social Work. Ideas and Applications*, New York: Routledge.
Supplementary readings	In due course