

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Social Work Methods 3
Course Code	51088
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-05/A
Language	German
Degree Course	Bachelor in Social Work
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dr. Elisabeth Berger, elisabeth.berger@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/17921
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	3
CP	5
Teaching Hours	30
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	95
Planned Office Hours	15
Contents Summary	This course is designed to enable students to undertake an in-depth study of social work methods. Building on the 'Methods and Techniques of Social Work' syllabus and some theoretical background knowledge, this course aims to develop and deepen key cross-cutting competencies in professional social work. In addition to fundamental theoretical knowledge, the course focuses on imparting specific professional knowledge and skills for social workers. The course is therefore designed to offer students the opportunity to link theoretical knowledge with professional skills: reflection on and critical analysis of personal, professional and theoretical behaviors, attitudes and ways of thinking will form an

	essential part of the course.
Course Topics	<p>List of topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work: social policy, organisation of services and professionalism • The participatory methodological approach: reflexivity, evaluation and self-evaluation; • Methods of social work and their respective theoretical frameworks; • Key competencies in professional social work; • Networking and building partnerships – collaboration within and across professions; • The professional code of conduct: ethical dilemmas in social work practice; • The legal and professional ethical responsibilities of social workers; • Systemic social work, social space based social work, community work;
Keywords	transversal key competencies in social work, systemic social work, social space based social work, community work;
Recommended Prerequisites	none
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lecture; guided self-study; esercitazioni e lavori di gruppo;
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>The course offers an in-depth exploration of the theoretical and scientific knowledge underpinning the social work method. A key focus will be on developing not only basic theoretical knowledge but also specific professional knowledge and skills relevant to social workers. Particular emphasis will be placed on systemic social work, a focus on the social environment, and community work. The course will therefore be structured to offer students the opportunity to integrate theoretical knowledge with professional skills: reflection and critical analysis of personal, professional and theoretical behaviours, attitudes and thoughts will form a fundamental part of the course. Practical exercises and reflections on real-life situations will form an integral part of the course, providing students with opportunities for self- and peer-observation, perception and reflection. Furthermore, the critical analysis of real-life situations of need will enable students to</p>

	acquire complex professional reflection and assessment skills.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the methodological process in general, and in particular of the use of the systemic model as applied to professional social work in various fields of practice; knowledge and understanding of the main professional tools, as well as the legal and professional responsibilities of the social worker.</p> <p>Ability to learn ability to independently explore methods and professional approaches presented during the course, critically use scientific and professional sources particularly with reference to the systemic approach, recognise one's own professional development needs and develop skills through reflection on practice;</p> <p>Ability to apply knowledge and understanding Ability to analyse specific case studies using the interpretative frameworks provided during the course. Ability to identify differences and similarities when analysing practical situations using multiple interpretative frameworks. Ability to recognise and understand situations of need and/or distress across the various areas of social services' work, linking these to social work methodology as well as to the specific socio-cultural and political context.</p> <p>Independence of judgement The ability to analyse situations from multiple perspectives encourages an examination of one's own attachments, views and prejudices, and in this sense fosters the development of independent thinking. This competence will be fundamental in building the reflective professionalism required of social workers operating in increasingly complex contexts and areas of intervention.</p> <p>Communication skills Students will learn to develop arguments based on scientific and professional principles.</p>

	<p>They will also need to acquire the ability to use professional language (both spoken and written).</p> <p>The development of specific communication skills will be a fundamental part of the course, both in terms of the social worker's relationship with the individual or family and within the broader professional context (collaboration with other services, work organisation, and the socio-political level).</p>
Assessment	individual homework on a specific question (choice between 3 topics), active participation in the lecture and oral exam
Evaluation Criteria	<p>A single final mark is awarded, composed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written assignment (40 per cent): the following aspects are taken into account and assessed: relevance to the task, logical structure, clarity of argument, professional language, ability to reflect on and reinterpret theoretical concepts, formal correctness, and critical analysis; - Oral examination (40%): the following aspects are considered and assessed: relevance, clarity of argumentation, capacity for critical analysis, ability to re-examine concepts, reflection and self-reflection; - Collaboration and active participation (20%): active participation in lectures and the assigned exercises in particular the ability to contribute to professional reflection and to justify one's choices for attending- students; <p>Non-attending students will be given an extra reading; based on this, the student will carry out an individual (written) activity analysing or reflecting on a professional situation from the assigned reading, which will be discussed during the oral exam.</p>
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texts in OLE that are made available in addition (Exercises, case studies, legal foundations); • Bertotti, T., Fazzi, L., Rosignoli, A. (2021), Il servizio sociale: le competenze chiave, Carocci, Roma. • ethic codex social workers
Supplementary Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendt, P. U., 2021, Lehrbuch Methoden der Sozialen Arbeit 3. Auflage, Weinheim und Basel; • Schröder, Ch., 2026, Praxishandbuch Soziale Arbeit. Methoden und Handlungskonzepte in Zeiten gesellschaftlicher Krisen, utb.

Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	No poverty, Good health and well-being, Quality education, Gender equality, Decent work and economic growth, Partnerships for the goals, Sustainable cities and communities, Responsible consumption and production, Climate action, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities