Program of the seminar  
(v8 update 20.04.12)  
Social Work and Poverty in Europe and in the United States  
Arcavacata Campus - University of Calabria  
Arcavacata di Rende (CS), Italy.  
May 6 - 11, 2012  

Seminar Description  
The first two editions of the Italo-American seminar took place at the headquarters of Loyola Chicago University in Rome where social work teachers and students from Loyola and four Italian universities (Calabria, Milano Bicocca, Parma, Trieste) gathered to study and discuss about migration (2009) and aging society (2010). In 2011 University of Calabria welcomed Italian and American students interested in studying social work with families and children.  
This 2012 seminar offers an exploration into some of the main issues related with contemporary social work acting against poverty. This exploration is grounded in an understanding of the major transformation in some European (Italian and Romanian) and American societies, the trends in welfare policy, and the social work responses both in Europe and the United States.  
The theoretical frameworks to define poverty will be discussed as well as how societies have defined and historically have responded to the problem of poverty. Concerns affecting the individual in poverty and how clinical social work addresses them will be examined. Poverty as it is shaped by social institutions as the economy, the government, family, religion, and social welfare will be analyzed in some detail as well as how poverty in turn shapes these institutions and their responses to people in need. The core social work value is social and economic justice and poverty will be viewed through the lens of this value and what the response of the profession has been to poverty and is today.  

Seminar Objectives  
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate the following:  

Knowledge  
1. Understand some of the basic theoretical frameworks that define poverty.  
2. Understand some of the private troubles of the individual living in poverty and the broader issues of how poverty is dealt with in the society.  
3. Understand poverty as a world-wide social problem and what can be learned from other countries in terms of how poverty issues are addressed.  
4. Learn how the social welfare institution is defined in different countries and how this facilitates or impedes how poverty is addressed.  
5. Understand the interaction between the institutions of the economy, polity, family, religion and social welfare and how poverty is defined and addressed.  
6. Learn how poverty addresses vulnerable populations as women, children and the aged.  

Values  
1. Develop an appreciation of how social work addresses the problem of poverty.  
2. Develop an appreciation of how poverty at both the micro and macro levels can be addressed.  
3. Strengthen one's value commitment to social and economic justice as the core social work value.  

Skills  
1. Ability to recognize the deleterious effects of poverty on both a micro and macro level.  
2. Ability to evaluate the effectiveness of alleviating poverty individually and at a group level.  
3. Ability to learn and compare at a cross-cultural level the effectiveness of poverty programs. 
Seminar Location

The University of Calabria, situated in Southern Italy (in Calabria near the town of Cosenza, about 500 km South of Rome), is a public institution established in 1972. The University of Calabria is a medium-sized university with about 36,000 students.

Since its very beginning the University of Calabria has clearly set out the strategies for the development of its international dimension. In the past twenty years several bilateral agreements were established by the University of Calabria with European and other foreign universities. Such agreements aim at encouraging cooperation in the fields of research and didactic activities. Apart from the participation in programmes co-financed by the E.U., the University of Calabria has established contacts with international organisations such as FAO, UNESCO of the United Nations, and OECD.

More information in English about University of Calabria can be found at: www.unical.it/portale/international.

The activities of the seminar will take place in the meeting room at the second floor of University of Calabria, Faculty of Scienze Politiche – Polifunzionale, Arcavacata di Rende (CS)

Seminar Assignments

The various lectures presented in the seminar provide an introduction to Social work with families and children in Europe and in the United States. For your group project, you are asked to consider a central question related to the seminar issue that presents an ethical dilemma, as well as concrete social, material, and policy challenges. As a group, you are to reflect on the question and consider it from the perspective of your professional social work values and your understanding of social welfare. Four groups will be formed and each of them will be comprised of Italian students and of U.S. students. On the final day of the seminar, each group will be given 25 minutes to present their ideas, followed by 10 minutes of question and discussion. Each group will be asked to prepare a 4-page (double spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins) summary of their ideas for distribution to the participants on the final day of the seminar. The questions to be considered will be communicated during the seminar.

Course Materials and Readings

Lectures, lecture notes, suggested readings and web-based resources will be posted on Alessandro Sicora’s electronic blackboard.

Go to <http://www.unical.it/portale/strutture/facolta/scipol/stud/bacheca/>, click on “S”, then on “Sicora Alessandro”, “Materiale didattico” and on “Social Work Seminar (University of Calabria, May 9 - 13 2011)”.

A Facebook group has been created to allow the exchange of information between the participants of the seminar. Its title is: “Social Work Seminar 2012”.

Residenza Socrates (Centro residenziale)

Canteen

Bus stop ("Pensiline")

Seminar room

Out of map in this direction
Seminar Agenda

Sunday May 6th

I. Orientation (20:00 PM - 21:00 PM) (Entrance hall, Residenza Socrates)

Monday May 7th

I. First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
   1. Introduction of participants and overview of seminar format and content
      Dean Guerino D’Ignazio, Gianpiero Barbuto and Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy
   2. What is poverty in Europe?
      Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy
      - Questions and discussion
      - Break (15 min)
   3. What is poverty? The American perspective
      Edward Gumz, Loyola University Chicago, Usa
      - Questions and discussion

II. Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)

III. Second Session (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)
   4. Welfare Changes in Italy and Europe
      Massimo Tagarelli, University of Calabria, Italy
      - Questions and discussion
      - Break (15 min)
   5. Contemporary professional roles of social workers in Italy with poor people
      Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy
      - Discussion and Questions

Tuesday May 8th

I. First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)
   1. Social work and poverty in U.K. (focus on children and elderly people)
      Gary Spolander and Linda Martin, Coventry University, U.K.
      - Break (15 min)
      - Discussion and Questions

II. Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)

III. Second Session (2:30 PM-5:00 PM)
   2. Field visit: Associazione “San Pancrazio”, Via Lungo Busento Oberdan, Contrada Macchia della Tavola, Cosenza

   Followed by a visit to the historic center of Cosenza (approximately 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM)
### Wednesday May 9th

**I. First Session (9:30 AM - 12:00 PM)**
1. *Poverty, welfare and social intervention in Romania*
   Florin Lazar, University of Bucharest, Romania (videoconference)
   - *Discussion and Questions*
   - Break (15 min)
2. *When poverty is environment*
   Laura Corradi, University of Calabria, Italy
   - *Discussion and Questions*

**II. Lunch Recess (12:30 PM - 2:30 PM)**

**III. Second Session (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)**
3. **Field visit:** visit to Centro Anziani (Day Centre for Elderly People; Contrada Tocci, Rende) and meeting with social workers and administrators of Comune (Municipality) di Rende (CS)

### Thursday May 10th

**I. First Session (9:30 AM - 1:00 PM)**
1. *Social work and poverty. The American perspective.*
   Edward Gumz, Loyola University Chicago, USA
   - *Discussion and Questions*
   - Break (15 min)
2. *Social work intervention against poverty in a relational perspective.*
   Annamaria Campanini, University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
   - *Discussion and Questions*

**II. Lunch Recess (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)**

**III. Second Session (2:30 PM - 5:00 PM)**
- Formation of student work groups
- Student group work to finalize group project and prepare presentation

### Friday May 11th

**I. First Session (9:30 AM - 13:00 PM)**
Presentation and discussion of student group projects.
1. *Group 1 and 2* (60 min: two 25-minute student group presentations followed by 15 minutes of question and discussion)
2. *Group 3 and 4* (60 min: two 25-minute student group presentations followed by 15 minutes of question and discussion)
3. Break (15 min)
4. *General discussion* and final evaluation

### Saturday May 12th (optional)

*Day trip by train to Reggio Calabria* (http://turismo.reggiocal.it) - details in process.