

**Syllabus – Project work in Applied Social Psychology**

## **Educational goals**

The course has a threefold aim: i) foster students' awareness of the fundamental pillars of participatory action research as a method of inquiry that promotes the active participation of community members and provides them with effective tools to trigger second-order change; ii) learn the characteristics of Photovoice, a qualitative method in participatory action research that employs photography as a tool to promote empowerment; iii) learn the practical aspects of conducting a Photovoice project through a concrete application of this method.

## **Skills to be gained**

The course aims to yield theoretical and operational knowledge regarding the framework of both participatory action research and Photovoice as a tool that facilitates the empowerment process.

At the end of the course, it is expected that the student will be able to:

- Know the assumptions and steps of participatory action research;
- Know the main theoretical approaches related to the constructs of empowerment, active participation, and sense of community;
- Know the methods and the three steps (and their sub-steps) underlying the implementation of a Photovoice project;
- Be able to design a Photovoice program.

## **Contents**

The following content will be covered during the course: the foundational pillars and stages of participatory action research; the dynamics underlying the processes of empowerment and active participation; the elements characterizing the sense of community; the principles of social design; and the steps and procedures underlying Photovoice.

## **Teaching methods**

The course foresees a traditional teaching unit, such as face-to-face lectures and group activities, and an innovative teaching unit consisting of the design and implementation of a Photovoice program.

## **Learning assessment**

The exam includes an oral test. The assessment criteria will cover:

1. The ability to articulate and develop critical thinking on the topics covered.
2. The assessment of the ability to synthesize and argue on specific course content;
3. The assessment of design skills;

4. Implementation of a Photovoice project;
4. Organicity, completeness of answers, and ability to grasp salient elements;
5. The ability to report concisely and accurately the concepts and knowledge acquired;
6. The student must demonstrate a good command of the topics covered and an equally good command of the terminology inherent to the topics of interest.

Therefore, the oral test will consist of questions related to the course contents and the implementation of the Photovoice project. It will also be aimed at assessing design skills.

A pass mark will be achieved with a score of at least 18 points. On reaching the maximum mark (equal to 30), honors may be awarded when the answers demonstrate particular critical reasoning capacity and originality.

### **Readings**

Langhout, R. D. (2014). Photovoice as a methodology. *Migration and health: A research methods handbook*, 327-342.