## **Sociology of deviance and social problems**

## Prof. Stefano Padovano

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to retrace the theoretical approaches of the sociology of discomfort and deviance from its origins to the most recent debate. The goal will be to compare the concepts that revolve around the definitions of deviance and crime to read the manifest and latent forms with which they occur in society.

The course will favour the possibility of exploring themes related to sociology of deviance to develop a critical knowledge useful for accredited scientific reading. To this end, the illustration of the theories will be readjusted to the current phenomena of discomfort, deviance, and crime, providing professional figures (operators, educators, social workers, mediators, etc.) with the necessary tools for in-the-field work (local services, socio-health and criminal justice areas, Third sector, etc.).

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. correctly read and identify the multiple forms of hardship, social deviance and widespread crime, which require well-established interpretive models for taking charge of those involved as perpetrators and/or victims;
2. acquire and use, with the appropriate methodological premises, what emerges from the statistical analysis of crime on which much of the planning of social and individual prevention and treatment interventions is based;
3. develop a capacity for critical reflection on the themes explored which, in addition to the study of the textbooks indicated, will be favoured by the possibility of interacting with the lecturer on the topics emerged.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Theoretical paths;*

– The origins: The key points of the Classical School and of Positivism,

– The first half of the Twentieth century: From the Chicago School to the functionalist approach.

* The Sixties: The deviant subcultures and the *“Labelling theory”*.
* From the Seventies to the End of the Twentieth Century: “Critical” Theories and Social Control.
* The 2000s: The current reinterpretation of different approaches

2. *The topics covered by the sociology of deviance*

– Sociological research: hardship, deviance, and crime.

* Genesis and evolution of urban security policies.
* From gender-based violence to predatory crime.
* Forms and dangers of organised crime.
* Discomfort and juvenile delinquency: the encounter with criminal justice.

***READING LIST***

For point 1:

F. P. WILLIAMS, *Devianza e criminalità*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2002 (only chs. II, III, IV, V (except paragraphs 6 and 7), VI, VII, VIII, IX (pp. 140-149), ch. X (pp. 168-172).

For point 2, two textbooks to chose from:

M. COLOMBO, *Adolescenti e cultura della legalità*, Angeli, Milano 2016.

S. PADOVANO, *La sicurezza urbana. Da concetto equivoco ad inganno*, Meltemi, Milano 2021.

S. PADOVANO, *Mezzo secolo di ritardi, saggi sul crimine organizzato in Liguria,* Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli, 2016 (only the introduction, ch. I and ch. V).

F. PRINA, *Gang giovanili. Perché nascono, chi ne fa parte, perché intervenire*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2019.

The lecturer may provide a thematic reading to students who request it and to those who intend to prepare a degree thesis.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is developed in teaching units with study materials that will be made available *online* on the Blackboard platform. The slides, together with the compulsory essays, will be an integral part of the materials for the exam.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment consists of an oral exam on points 1 and 2 of the programme. Students will be asked to draw from the theories presented the ideas and cues useful to readjust the reasons, causes and effects that the phenomena of deviance and criminality reproduce in contemporary collective dynamics. The use of key concepts through a critical and sociologically founded approach will be considered in the assessment. This also applies to the analytical and interpretive skills developed by the students on the topics studied.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisite of the course are basic sociological knowledge related to the main concepts (society, values, norms, roles, social disorganisation, relative deprivation, inclusion/exclusion, etc.).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.