Applied Criminology

Prof. Serena Favarin; Prof. Francesco Calderoni; Prof. Marco Lombardi

Module 1: *Application of criminological theories* (Prof. Serena Favarin)

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

The course is an introduction to applied criminology. At the end of the course, students a) will acquire knowledge on main contemporary criminological approaches and on their most recent application; b) will be able to actively participate in a discussion starting from critical analysis of the literature on the topic to be read by students before each lecture; c) will increase their ability to communicate in English as they will answer questions in language to lead class discussion; d) will be able to read and comment on scientific articles

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Introduction to the course and how it is assessed.

2. The various approaches of modern and contemporary criminology (such as: *rational choice theory, routine activity theory, social disorganization theory, general theory of crime*)

3. The main applications arising from modern and contemporary criminology through the reading of surveys carried out on the topic (scientific articles).

4. Discussion to be held in class and in-depth examination of the surveys debated.

***READING LIST***

The reference reading list consists of essays and book chapters in English and is updated from year to year. The updated reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course on Blackboard. For information, see the reading list for the academic year 2020-2021:

Text book:

Hopkins R. Burke (2009) “An Introduction to Criminological Theory” – Third Edition, Willan Publishing (selected chapters related to the selected topics: 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15).

Scientific Articles:

Loughran, T. A., Paternoster R., Chalfin A., and Wilson T. (2016) “Can Rational Choice Be Considered a General Theory of Crime? Evidence from Individual-Level Panel Data.” Criminology 54 (1): 86–112.

Groff, E. (2007) Simulation for Theory Testing and Experimentation\_An Example Using Routine Activity Theory and Street Robbery. Journal of Quantitative Criminology, 23: 75–103.

Tibbetts, S. G. and Piquero, A. R. (1999). “The Influence of Gender, Low Birth Weight, And Disadvantaged Environment in Predicting Early Onset of Offending: A Test Of Moffitt's Interactional Hypothesis”. Criminology, 37: 843–878.

Sampson, J. R. and Groves, B. W. (1989) “Community Structure and Crime: Testing Social-Disorganization Theory.” American Journal of Sociology 94: 774-802.

Schoepfer A. and Leeper Piquero N. (2006) “Exploring White-Collar Crime and the American Dream: A Partial Test of Institutional Anomie Theory.” Journal of Criminal Justice 34 (3): 227–35.

Bernburg, J. G., and Krohn M. D. (2003). “Labeling, Life Chances, and Adult Crime: The Direct and Indirect Effects of Official Intervention in Adolescence on Crime in Early Adulthood\*”. Criminology 41 (4): 1287–1318.

Grasmick et al. (1993) “Testing the Core Empirical Implications of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime”. Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency, 30(1): 5-29.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures; preparation, presentation and discussion of scientific literature; the course is taught in English.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For students who have attended at least 80% of lecture hours: written exam in English based on lecture contents and the literature analysed in class (4 open-ended questions in 90 minutes – 30 points). Up to 3 additional points can be earned by attending students through class participation. Scores higher than 30 correspond to a mark of 30 with honours.

For all other students: written exam in English based on the literature analysed during lectures and on scientific articles indicated in the syllabus (4 open questions in 90 minutes - 30 points).

At the beginning of the course a document will be available on *Blackboard* to guide students in preparing the final exam (Applied Criminology - final exam instructions).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Attendance is strongly recommended. There are no prerequisites to attend the course. Syllabus updates, reading list, instructions and other documents will be published on the course *Blackboard* page. *Blackboard* will also be used to communicate schedule changes, exam information and more.

All students (including non-attending students and students who have not completed courses in due time) are invited to register for the course on *Blackboard*, and to keep up to date (entering their email address and full name).

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.

Module II: *Organised crime* (Prof. Francesco Calderoni)

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

The course critically analyses the concept of organized crime.

At the end of the course, students will be able to a) critically analyse interpretations, literature and data on organized crime, b) actively participate in a discussion based on the scientific literature on organized crime; c) identify research problems, elaborate detailed essays, communicate orally and in writing in English on topics related to criminal organizations.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Introduction to the course and to the assessment method.
* Organised crime: interpretative and theoretical approaches.
* Problems related to social construction, conceptualization, definition of organized crime.
* Activities of organised crime in legal and illegal markets.
* Activities of organised crime. Focus: drug trafficking.
* Activities of organised crime. Focus: illegal markets.
* The movement of criminal groups.
* Revenues and investments of organised crime.

***READING LIST***

The reference reading list consists of research articles and book chapters in English and is updated from year to year. The updated reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course on Blackboard. For information, see the reading list for the academic year 2021-2022:

Ashby, Matthew PJ. 2016. ‘Is Metal Theft Committed by Organized Crime Groups, and Why Does It Matter?’ *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 16 (2): 141–57. https://doi.org/10.1177/1748895815603777.

Calderoni, Francesco. 2014. ‘Mythical Numbers and the Proceeds of Organised Crime: Estimating Mafia Proceeds in Italy’. *Global Crime* 15 (1–2): 138–63. https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2014.882778.

Campana, Paolo. 2011. ‘Eavesdropping on the Mob: The Functional Diversification of Mafia Activities across Territories’. *European Journal of Criminology* 8 (3): 213–28.

Carrapiço, Helena. 2014. ‘Analysing the European Union’s Responses to Organized Crime through Different Securitization Lenses’. *European Security* 23 (4): 601–17. https://doi.org/10.1080/09662839.2014.949248.

Kleemans, Edward R. 2014. ‘Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Crime’. In *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime*, edited by Letizia Paoli, 32–52. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kruisbergen, Edwin W., Edward R. Kleemans, and Ruud F. Kouwenberg. 2015. ‘Profitability, Power, or Proximity? Organized Crime Offenders Investing Their Money in Legal Economy’. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research* 21 (2): 237–56. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10610-014-9263-5.

Natarajan, Mangai, Marco Zanella, and Christopher Yu. 2015. ‘Classifying the Variety of Drug Trafficking Organizations’. *Journal of Drug Issues* 45 (4): 409–30. https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042615603391.

Paoli, Letizia. 2002. ‘The Paradoxes of Organized Crime’. *Crime, Law and Social Change* 37: 51–97.

Paoli, Letizia, and Cyrille Fijnaut. 2004. ‘Introduction to Part I: The History of the Concept’. In *Organised Crime in Europe: Concepts, Patterns and Control Policies in the European Union and Beyond*, edited by Cyrille Fijnaut and Letizia Paoli, 21–46. Dordrecht: Springer.

Reuter, Peter. 2014. ‘Drug Markets and Organized Crime’. In *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime*, edited by Letizia Paoli, 359–80. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sciarrone, Rocco, and Luca Storti. 2014. ‘The Territorial Expansion of Mafia-Type Organized Crime. The Case of the Italian Mafia in Germany’. *Crime, Law and Social Change* 61 (1): 37–60. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-013-9473-7.

Tripp, Tara M., and Jennifer McMahon-Howard. 2016. ‘Perception vs. Reality: The Relationship Between Organized Crime and Human Trafficking in Metropolitan Atlanta’. *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 41 (4): 732–64. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-015-9315-5.

Varese, Federico. 2014. ‘Protection and Extortion’. In *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime*, edited by Letizia Paoli, 343–58. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Woodiwiss, Michael. 2003. ‘Transnational Organized Crime: The Strange Career of an American Concept’. In *Critical Reflections on Transnational Organized Crime, Money Laundering and Corruption*, edited by Margaret E. Beare, 3–34. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Woodiwiss, Michael, and Dick Hobbs. 2009. ‘Organized Evil and the Atlantic Alliance: Moral Panics and the Rhetoric of Organized Crime Policing in America and Britain’. *British Journal of Criminology* 49 (1): 106–28.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures; preparation, presentation and discussion of scientific literature guided by the lecturer; argumentative written paper.

With the exception of the introductory lecture, the course is taught in English.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The module may also include a system of continuous evaluation, which will include multiple choice questions, and/or short open answers, and/or an assessment of participation in the classroom discussion (give a total of 0-12 points) and the preparation of a paper (0-24 points). For students who have attended at least 80% of lecture hours and submitted the paper within the timeframe indicated at the start of the course: written paper (0-24 points) + short oral exam of about 10 minutes (0-12 points) to be taken in the appeals of the June-July session.

For all other students: written paper (0-24 points) + written exam on Blackboard (0-12 points). The written exam is based on four open-ended questions. Each questions will be assessed from 0 to 3 points.

Marks over 30 will be awarded 30 *cum laude*.

Possible exam questions, for both the oral and written exam, will be communicated in advance via Blackboard.

The final mark will result from the arithmetic average of the marks obtained in the three modules, provided that they are all sufficient (18/30 or higher). A final score of 31 points will correspond to 30 cum laude. The arithmetic average is rounded up or off to the nearest whole number.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Class attendance is highly recommended. Further information, such as the updated version of the course programme, reading list, instructions, and other documents will be made available on *Blackboard*. In addition, *Blackboard* will be used to inform students about any changes in the timetable, and provide also further information on the final exam.

All students (regardless of class attendance, including the ones who have not completed the exams within set time period) are invited to register on the *Blackboard* page of the course and regularly check it in order to receive updates (for this reason, they will be asked to register on *Blackboard* a valid email address, containing their name and surname clearly).

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a basic knowledge of the sociological theories on deviance and criminology that are usually acquired during the Bachelor’s degree or during semester 1. In addition, students should be familiar with the UCSC library system, the OPAC and the other search tools.

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.

Module III: *Conflict Scenarios: Terrorism and Countering Techniques* (Prof. Marco Lombardi)

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

The course aims to provide the theoretical, methodological and empirical skills for analysing the terrorist phenomenon, placing particular attention on the new forms that have emerged over recent decades. In particular, the course aims to provide students with the fundamental competences to analyse future scenarios and evaluate threats. At the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of security issues related to the terrorist phenomenon and to the main study and analysis methods applicable in the intelligence sector; and to develop independent interpretations of the phenomena studied in a ‘problem solving’ and risk assessment perspective.

The expected learning outcomes are as follows:

- knowledge and understanding: student must demonstrate to have acquired a basic knowledge of securitative approaches and problems related to the threat of terrorism in their historical and contemporary evolution;

- application skills: students must demonstrate the ability to use the methods for collecting and using information to define simple scenarios and to assess emerging threats;

- independent judgment: students must demonstrate that they have acquired the ability to analyse and provide original arguments to support course topics, with particular reference to cases and materials discussed in the class;

- communication skills: students must be able to express concepts and use disciplinary categories with argumentative ability and appropriate language;

- ability to learn: students must demonstrate to have understood the main characteristics of different securitative approaches, their similarities and differences.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course covers five specific areas:

– Terrorism: the specific nature of the phenomenon, its evolution, and regulatory and operational framework.

– The evolution of conflict scenarios: from the so-called Hybrid Warfare to the new threats of Cognitive Warfare.

– Violent extremism and terrorism: recruitment processes and methods to contrast them

– The evolution of the threat: cyber space and digital ecosystems.

– Field analysis: research and intervention experiences

***READING LIST***

M. Lombardi, *Il terrorismo nel nuovo millennio*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2016

In addition, students will have to study the notes taken in class and the additional teaching material that will be made available on *Blackboard*, which are an integral part of the exam syllabus. Reference will be made to the texts on the website *www.itstime.it* and on the journal *www.sicurezzaterrorismosocieta.it*

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, which may be accompanied by meeting with professional experts in the field.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam of the module is written and will focus on the content of the texts in the reading list and the topics studied in class.

The assessment aims to check students’ knowledge and competences in multiple ways: 1) learning: assessment and evaluation of acquired knowledge through a discussion of the main theories and methods examined in class; 2) analysis: assessment of students’ ability to critically analyse and re-elaborate acquired content and knowledge; 3) argumentation: use of vocabulary and code coherent to the discipline. The final mark will take into account answers in terms of learning (50% of the result), analysis (30%), and argumentation (20%).

The final mark of the course is the arithmetic average of the marks obtained in all three modules, provided that in all modules students obtain a mark equal to or higher than 18. The mark 30 cum laude (with honours) corresponds to 31 points. The average will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

There are no prerequisites for this course. Class attendance is highly recommended. Additional information, such as the updated version of the course programme, reading list, instructions, and other documents will be made available on *Blackboard*. Furthermore, *Blackboard*, together with the official UCSC email,will be used to inform students about any changes in the timetable, and provide further information on the final exam.

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.