# Economics of Crime

## Prof. Raul Caruso

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

The course aims to describe and analyse criminal phenomena from a micro- and macro-economic perspective, and provide students with those theoretical-analytical tools and intervention policies that can help them understand and manage this complex phenomenon.

The course can be ideally divided into four sections: (i) the first one will explain the main theoretical contributions in the field of economics of crime; (ii) the second section will consider empirical evidence referring to main criminal phenomena; (iii) the third section will be dedicated to mafias; (iv) the fourth session will analyse the economic aspects of certain complex and interrelated topics, such as illegal drug trade and money laundering.

In terms of Knowledge and Understanding, at the end of the course students will be able to:

* master the technical jargon of this discipline, as well as its main theoretical and conceptual tools;
* orient themselves among different sources of information and economic data in order to understand, from a critical perspective, the consequences of economic policies on criminal phenomena;
* interpret economic dynamics with consequences on security at a social level.

From a practical point of view, at the end of the course students will be able to:

* highlight the economic aspects of crimes;
* identify the economic factors linked to the persistence of mafias;
* elaborate their own economic solutions aimed at maintaining security.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Economic theories of crime.

Corruption: theoretical and empirical aspects.

A theoretical model of organised crime.

Mafias: origins, categorisation and economic aspects.

Economic policies and mafia.

Rational Addiction theory

Illegal drug trade.

Casino and crime.

Money laundering: theory and practices.

***READING LIST***

A. Anderson, *Organized crime,* mafia, goverments, in G. Fiorentini-S. Peltzman (ed. by), The economics of organised crime, Cambridge University Press, 1995 (pp. 33-54).

P. Bardhan, *Corruption and Development: A review of Issues,* Journal of Economic Literature, 1997 (1320-1346).

S. Beraldo-R. Caruso-G. Turati, *Life is Now! Time Preferences and Crime: Aggregate Evidence from the Italian Regions,* Journal of Socio-Economics, 2013, vol. 47, pp. 73-81.

R. Caruso, *Corruzione e attori economici,* *il legame da spezzare,* Vita e Pensiero, 2013, vol. 96, n.2, pp. 65-71.

R. Caruso, *Spesa Pubblica e Criminalità organizzata in Italia,* evidenza empirica su dati Panel nel periodo 1997- 2003. Economia e Lavoro. 2009 (71-88).

R. Caruso-A. Baronchelli, *Economic Aspects of the complementarity between Corruption and Crime: Evidence from Italy in the period 1996-2005,* International Journal of Monetary Economics and Finance, 2013 , 244-260.

C. Costa Storti-P. De Grauwe, *The Cocaine And Heroin Markets In The Era Of Globalisation And Drug Reduction Policies,* International Journal of Drug Policy, 2009 (pp. 488-496).

R. Ferwerda, *The Economics of Crime and Money Laundering. Does anti-money laundering Policy reduce crime? Review of Law and Economics,* 2009, 903-929.

R. Marselli-M. Vannini, *Economia della criminalità. Delitto e castigo come scelta razionale,* Utet-Università, 1999 (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4).

Further bibliography, suggested readings, and slides will be available on the lecturer’s webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For all the students (including the ones who can’t attend classes), the assessment method consists in the drafting of a paper to be sent to the lecturer.

This method is aimed at putting students in the best conditions to pass the final exam. In general, it allows to evaluate the students’ degree of preparation, as well as their personal reinterpretation skills.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

The course does not require prerequisites

*Informatkion regarding the final exam*

Procedures and delivery schedules of the final exam will be available on the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard pltaform.

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.

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.