**Complex criminal phenomena**

Prof. Alberto Aziani

## COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Course aims

The course aims to introduce students to the analysis and understanding of four criminal phenomena, namely organized crime—in the Western world and beyond—, corruption, terrorism, illegal markets and transnational crimes. At the same time, the course will guide the students in understanding the specificities and complexities of the scientific analysis of criminal phenomena. The course is divided into four parts. Each of the parts is dedicated to the presentation and study of a criminal phenomenon: 1) organized crime; 2) corruption; 3) terrorism; 4) illegal markets and transnational crimes. For each phenomenon, they will be analyzed its various manifestations, the conceptual frameworks aiming at its interpretation, its transformations, and the factors that generate and influence it.

### Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the course, the students will have basic knowledge on the complex crimes covered by the course. In particular, they will know the main transnational characteristics and dynamics of organized crime, the different types of corruption as well as its causes and consequences, the different types of terrorism and its main theoretical interpretations. The introduction to critical thinking on the criminological theories developed to explain these phenomena will allow students to reason independently on the causes, consequences, and evolutions of these crimes.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course will have the following program:

### 1. Organized crime

* Conceptual, definitional and theoretical framework
* Main typologies and case studies
* Mafia-type organized crime
* Laundering of illicit proceeds and illicit financial flows
* Non-Western perspectives on organized crime

### 2. Corruption

* Conceptual framework, definition, legislation
* Main typologies and case studies
* Causes and consequences
* Main measuring tools

### 3. Terrorism

* Conceptual framework and definition
* Historical evolution
* Foreign fighters and lone wolfs
* Terrorism financing

### 4. illegal markets and transnational crimes

* Concept of illegal market
* Concept of transnational crime
* Interpretative theories of illegal markets and transnational crimes
* Drug market and drug trafficking
* Migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings
* Environmental crimes and trafficking of natural resources

## READING LIST

In consideration of the international orientation of the discipline and given the lack of manuals in Italian that cover the topics of the course, the bibliography includes material in English. Students must know the library system of the University and be able to retrieve the bibliography independently. Materials which are not available at the University library will be made available on *Blackboard*. Below is the bibliography. Any additional optional reading will be provided during the course via *Blackboard*.

### First semester (COURSE Parts 1, 2, 3)

**Letizia Paoli (edited by). The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014 (in the library)**

***Only the following parts and pages*** :

* Paoli, Letizia, and Tom Vander Beken. 'Organized Crime. A Contested Concept '. Pages 13–31.
* Kleemans, Edward R. 'Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Crime'. Pages 32–52.
* Paoli, Letizia. 'The Italian Mafia'. Pages 121–41.
* Varese, Federico. 'Protection and Extortion'. Pages 343–58.
* Levi, Michael. 'Money Laundering'. Pages 419–33.
* Chin, Ko-lin. 2014. 'Chinese Organized Crime'. Pages 219–33.
* Hill, Peter. 2014. 'The Japanese Yakuza'. Pages 234–53.
* Williams, Phil. 2014. 'Nigerian Criminal Organizations'. Pages 254–69.

**Alberto Aziani. Illicit Financial Flows: An Innovative Approach to Estimation. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2018**

*Only the following parts and pages:*

Aziani, Alberto. ‘Illicit Financial Flows: Conceptual and Operational Issues’. Pag. 1-19.

**Paul M. Heywood (Editor). Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption. New York: Routledge. 2014 (in the library)**

***Only the following parts and pages:***

* Kurer, Oskar. 'Definitions of corruption'. Pages 30–39.
* Rothstein, Bo and Teorell, Jan. 'Causes of corruption'. Pages 79–94.
* Uslaner, Eric M. 'The consequences of corruption'. Pages 199-211.

**Andrew Silke (Editor). Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. New York - Abingdon: Routledge. 2019 (in the library)**

***Only the following parts and pages:***

* Richards, Anthony. 'Defining terrorism'. Pages 13–21.
* LaFree, Gary. 'Conceptualizing and measuring terrorism'. Pages 22–33.
* Malet, David. 'Foreign fighters and terrorism'. Pages 207-215.

**Scientific papers:**

* Reuter, Peter, and Letizia Paoli. "How similar are modern criminal syndicates to traditional mafias?" Crime and Justice 49.1 (2020): Pag. 223-287 (accessible via the library)

### SECOND semester (course part 4)

**Letizia Paoli (edited by). The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014 (in the library)**

***Only the following parts and pages:***

* Reuter, Peter H. 'Drug Markets and Organized Crime'. Pages 359–80.
* Kleemans, Edward R., and Monika Smit. 'Human Smuggling, Human Trafficking, and Exploitation in the Sex Industry'. Pages 381–401.
* van Solinge Boekhout, Tim. 'The Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources'. Pages 500–28.
* Medel, Monica, and Francisco E. Thoumi. 2014. 'Mexican Drug “Cartels”'. Pages 219–33.

**Scientific papers:**

* Aziani, Alberto. The heterogeneity of human smugglers: a reflection on the use of concepts in studies on the smuggling of migrants. Trends Organ Crim 26, Pag. 80–106 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-021-09435-w (accessible via the library).
* Aziani, Alberto. "Implicazioni Criminologiche della Regolamentazione del Mercato della Cannabis in Italia." I Quaderni Di Scienza & Vita 22.novembre (2021): Pag. 65-77 (accessible via the library).
* Aziani, Alberto, Giulia Berlusconi, and Luca Giommoni. "A quantitative application of enterprise and social embeddedness theories to the transnational trafficking of cocaine in Europe." Deviant Behavior 42.2 (2021): Pag. 245-267 (accessible via the library).
* Reuter, Peter, and Mark AR Kleiman. "Risks and prices: An economic analysis of drug enforcement." Crime and justice 7 (1986): Pag. 289-340 (accessible via the library).

## TEACHING METHOD

Lectures, examples and practical cases. The course includes moments of independent study of classroom materials and manuals.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

### Evaluation methods

The assessment consists of two tests, one relating to the contents of the first semester and one relating to the contents of the second semester. The first test is an oral exam. The oral exam can be taken in the middle of the course (once only) or at the end of the course. The second test is an oral exam (open questions), which can only be taken at the end of the course.

The final evaluation of the exam will be given by the average of the marks of the tests relating to the first and second semester. The two tests will have equal weight in defining the final grade—i.e., 50% and 50%. Final scores higher than 30/30 correspond to a grade of 30 with honors.

If a student does not reach the grade of 18 in a test, she/he will have to take the test again.

It will be possible to refuse only the final grade of the entire course given by the average of the marks relative to the two tests, but not the grade of the individual tests. The refusal of the grade therefore involves the cancellation of both tests.

**Oral exam teaching I semester**

Evaluation relating to the teaching of the *first semester*: Oral exam (3 open questions; points: from 0 to 31). All questions will have equal importance and will be evaluated with a score from 0 (in case of no answer) to 31 points (in case of perfect answer). The set of all possible questions will be shared with the students during the course. The outcome of the oral exam will be given by the average of the scores of the individual questions.

**Oral exam teaching II semester**

Evaluation relating to the teaching of the *second semester*: Oral test (3 open questions 60 minutes; points from 0 to 31). All questions will have equal importance and will be evaluated with a score from 0 (in case of no answer) to 31 points (in case of perfect answer). The set of possible questions will not be shared with students before the test. The result of the written test will be given by the average of the scores of the individual questions.

### Evaluation criteria

In the oral test relating to the first semester and in the oral test relating to the second second semester, students must demonstrate to:

* Know the fundamental notions and key concepts related to the macro classes of crimes addressed during the course.
* Know how to present these notions and concepts in a synthetic, clear, effective and formally correct way.
* Be able to critically analyze the criminological theories addressed in the program.

Consequently, the evaluation criteria of the oral exam will be: the correctness of the contents, the logical organization of the answers, the conceptual and expository clarity, the ability to synthesize, the appropriate use of specific terminology, the critical sense.

## NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

### Class attendance

Attendance is highly recommended, in consideration of the specialized and constantly changing nature of the topics and the interactive nature of some lessons.

### Teaching language

The lessons of the first semester (40 hours of lessons) will be held in Italian.

The lessons of the second semester (20 hours of lessons) will be held in English. In this way, students will have the opportunity to practice using this language.

It will be possible to take the exams in Italian or in English.

### Use of Blackboard

Updated program, classroom materials, any bibliography not available in the library, instructions and other documents will be published on the *Blackboard page* of the course. The *Blackboard page* will also be the tool to communicate changes in schedules, information on exams.

### All students (regardless of class attendance, including those who have not completed university exams within set time period) are invited to register for the 2023-2024 course on Blackboard (using an e-mail address containing their name and surname) and check it on a regular basis.

### Prerequisites

Students should be able to understand both written and spoken English at a basic level.

### Time and place of reception

Prof. Alberto Aziani receives students by appointment at the Transcrime office (Via San Vittore 43/45) and virtually via Teams. To make an appointment, contact the teacher by email ([alberto.aziani@unicatt.it](mailto:alberto.aziani@unicatt.it%20)).