**Applied Criminology**

## Prof. Serena Favarin; Prof. Francesco Calderoni

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 have acquired knowledge on main modern and contemporary criminological approaches; b) will know how these approaches have been empirically tested in literature; c) will be able to read, understand and comment on scientific articles in English; d) will be able to actively participate in class discussions in English, based on literature analysis.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Introduction to the course and how it is assessed;

– Presentation of the various approaches of modern and contemporary criminology (such as: *rational choice theory, routine activity theory, social disorganisation theory, general theory of crime*);

– Students’ guided reading and analysis of scientific articles and understanding of how these theoretical approaches have been tested in literature;

* 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 2022-2023:

Text book:

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

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. With the exception of the introductory lesson, 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 with the possibility for excellent exams to be recognized ‘with honours’). Up to 3 additional points can be earned by attending students through class participation (by submitting assignments and participating in class discussion). Scores higher than 30 correspond to a mark of 30 with honours.

For all other students: written exam in English based on the criminological theories analysed during lectures and on scientific articles indicated in the syllabus (4 open questions in 90 minutes - 30 points with the possibility for excellent exams to be recognized ‘with honours’).

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***

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.

Each year the course content is updated to keep up with developments and innovations regarding some theories students will examine. For this reason, students who do not pass the exam within the eight scheduled exam dates will have to follow the course content and assessment methods of the course delivered in the following academic year.

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 2: *Organised Crime* (Prof. Francesco Calderoni)

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

The course critically analyses the concept of organised crime.

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

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Introduction to the course and how it is assessed;
* Organised crime: interpretative and theoretical approaches.
* Problems related to social construction, conceptualisation, definition of organised 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 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 2022-2023:

Ashby, M. P. (2016). Is metal theft committed by organized crime groups, and why does it matter? *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, *16*(2), 141–157. https://doi.org/10.1177/1748895815603777

Calderoni, F. (2014). Mythical numbers and the proceeds of organised crime: Estimating mafia proceeds in Italy. *Global Crime*, *15*(1–2), 138–163. https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2014.882778

Calderoni, F., Berlusconi, G., Garofalo, L., Giommoni, L., & Sarno, F. (2016). The Italian mafias in the world: A systematic assessment of the mobility of criminal groups. *European Journal of Criminology*, *13*(4), 413–433. https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370815623570

Campana, P. (2011). Eavesdropping on the Mob: The functional diversification of Mafia activities across territories. *European Journal of Criminology*, *8*(3), 213–228.

Carrapiço, H. (2021). Reflections on transnational organized crime as a security concept. In F. Allum & S. Gilmour (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Transnational Organized Crime* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Hamilton College. (2020). *Writing Resources*. Hamilton College. https://www.hamilton.edu//academics/centers/writing/writing-resources

Kleemans, E. R. (2014). Theoretical perspectives on organized crime. In L. Paoli (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime* (pp. 32–52). Oxford University Press.

Kruisbergen, E. W., Kleemans, E. R., & Kouwenberg, R. F. (2015). Profitability, Power, or Proximity? Organized Crime Offenders Investing Their Money in Legal Economy. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, *21*(2), 237–256. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10610-014-9263-5

Labaree, R. V. (2023). *Research Guides: Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: 1. Choosing a Research Problem*. http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/researchproblem

Lavorgna, A. (2019). Cyber-organised crime. A case of moral panic? *Trends in Organized Crime*, *22*(4), 357–374. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-018-9342-y

Natarajan, M., Zanella, M., & Yu, C. (2015). Classifying the Variety of Drug Trafficking Organizations. *Journal of Drug Issues*, *45*(4), 409–430. https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042615603391

Paoli, L. (2002). The paradoxes of organized crime. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, *37*, 51–97.

Paoli, L. (2016). Towards a Theory of Organized Crime: Some Preliminary Reflections. In G. A. Antonopoulos (Ed.), *Illegal Entrepreneurship, Organized Crime and Social Control: Essays in Honor of Professor Dick Hobbs* (pp. 3–17). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31608-6\_1

Paoli, L., & Fijnaut, C. (2004). Introduction to Part I: The History of the Concept. In C. Fijnaut & L. Paoli (Eds.), *Organised crime in Europe: Concepts, patterns and control policies in the European Union and beyond* (pp. 21–46). Springer.

Reuter, P. (2014). Drug markets and organized crime. In L. Paoli (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime* (pp. 359–380). Oxford University Press.

Tripp, T. M., & McMahon-Howard, J. (2016). Perception vs. Reality: The Relationship Between Organized Crime and Human Trafficking in Metropolitan Atlanta. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *41*(4), 732–764. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-015-9315-5

Varese, F. (2014). Protection and extortion. In L. Paoli (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime* (pp. 343–358). Oxford University Press.

Woodiwiss, M. (2003). Transnational Organized Crime: The Strange Career of an American Concept. In M. E. Beare (Ed.), *Critical reflections on transnational organized crime, money laundering and corruption* (pp. 3–34). University of Toronto Press.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures; preparation, presentation and discussion of scientific literature guided by the lecturer; argumentative written paper. With the exception of the introductory lesson, the course is taught in English.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The module includes an assessment system based on three alternative ways.

1. 0-12 points earned through ongoing evaluation in class, which will include multiple choice and/or short open answers, and/or an assessment of participation in the classroom discussion. 0-24 points are earned by writing a paper to be submitted within the official exam session in June-July.
2. For students who
   1. have attended at least 80% of the lecture hours,
   2. submit their essay by the deadline indicated at the beginning of the course,
   3. take the exam in the June-July official exam session:

0-24 points are earned by writing a paper. 0-12 points are earned by taking a brief oral test of about 10 minutes.

1. For all other students: 0-24 points are earned by writing an essay. 0-12 points are earned by passing a written test on Blackboard based on four open-ended questions. Each question will be assessed from 0 to 3 points.

Marks over 30 will be awarded 30 *with honours*.

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 two modules, provided that they are all sufficient (18/30 or higher). A final score of 31 points will correspond to 30 *with honours*. The arithmetic average is rounded up.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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Each year the course content is updated to keep up with developments and innovations regarding the module topics. For this reason, students who do not pass the exam within the eight scheduled exam dates (from June to February of the year following that of attendance) will have to follow the course content and assessment methods of the course delivered in the following academic year.

Students should have a basic knowledge of the sociological theories on deviance and criminology that are usually acquired during the undergraduate degree or during semester 1. In addition, a good proficiency in argumentative writing is required and it is normally acquired during previous studies or through a dedicated seminar in the first semester. Students should also be familiar with the UCSC library system, the OPAC and the other bibliographic 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.