# Organised Crime, Terrorism and Corruption

## Prof. Alberto Aziani

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

### COURSE AIMS

### The course aims to introduce students to the knowledge and understanding of three criminal macro phenomena: organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. The course is divided into three parts. Each part focuses on presenting and in-depth analysing one of these themes. For each theme, the various cases, the conceptual frameworks for their interpretation, the transformations and the factors that generate and influence them will be examined. In parallel, students will be introduced to understanding specific features of the scientific analysis of criminal phenomena.

### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

## By the end of the course, students will have acquired basic knowledge of complex crimes addressed in the course. In particular, they will be able to show understanding of the main characteristics and the transnational dynamics of organized crime, the different types of corruption, its causes and consequences, the various types of terrorism and the main forms of terrorist financing. The introduction to critical thinking on the theories that are developed to explain these phenomena will allow students to independently reason about the causes, consequences, and evolutionary dynamics of these crimes. Furthermore, students will enhance their ability to understand and analyse scientific criminology texts.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course will present the following content:

### 1. Organised crime

* Conceptual framework, definitions and theories
* Main types and case studies
	+ Mafia-style organised crime
	+ Laundering of illicit proceeds and illicit financial flows
* Non Western perspective on organised crime.

### 2. Corruption

– Conceptual framework, definition and legislation.

– Main types and case studies.

* Causes and consequences
* Main measurement tools

### 3. Terrorism

* Conceptual framework and definition
* Historical development
* Foreign fighters and lone wolves
* Funding terrorism

## READING LIST

Given the international nature of the discipline and the lack of books in Italian covering the topics of the course, the reading list will be largely in English. Students must be able to use the library system to find the required bibliography. If necessary, the materials that is not available in the library will be made available through the Blackboard platform. Find the reading list below. Any optional readings will be provided during the course via Blackboard.

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

Only the following chapters and pages:

* Chap. 1. Paoli, Letizia, e Tom Vander Beken. ‘Organised Crime. A Contested Concept’. Pages 13–31.
* Chap. 2. Kleemans, Edward R. ‘Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Crime’. Pages 32–52.
* Chap. 5. Paoli, Letizia. ‘The Italian Mafia’. Pages 121–41.
* Chap. 17. Varese, Federico. ‘Protection and Extortion’. Pages 343–58.
* Chap. 21. Levi, Michael. ‘Money Laundering’. Pages 419–33.
* Chap. 10. Chin, Ko-lin. 2014. ‘Chinese Organized Crime’. Pages 219–33.
* Chap. 11. Hill, Peter. 2014. ‘The Japanese Yakuza’. Pages 234–53.
* Chap. 12. 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:**

* Cap. 1. Illicit Financial Flows: Conceptual and Operational Issues. Pagine 1-19.

**Paul M. Heywood (edited by). Routledge Handbook of Political Corruption. New York – London: Routledge. 2014 (in the library).**

Only the following chapters and pages:

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

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

Only the following chapters and pages:

* Richards, Anthony. ‘Defining terrorism’. pp. 13-21.
* LaFree, Gary. ‘Conceptualizing and measuring terrorism’. pp. 22-33.
* Malet, David. ‘Foreign fighters and terrorism’. pp. 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 (available through the library)

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class, examples and practical case studies, interactive lessons on writing techniques and interpretation of scientific texts. The course requires, of course, independent study of lecture material and manuals.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

### ASSESSMENT METHOD

Assessment includes two possible formats chosen by students:

1. Written work in the form of a paper and a simplified oral exam. The final mark is given by the average of the marks obtained in the short paper (0-31 points) and in the oral exam (2 open questions, with the option to choose between 4 questions, 0 to 31). The two questions in the oral exam will have the same weight and will be evaluated with a score from 0 (if no answer is given) to 31 points (in the case of an excellent answer). The evaluation of the oral exam will be given by the average of the evaluation of the two answers.

Students who do not obtain a pass mark in the oral exam (18 or above) will retake the oral exam. Students who refuse the mark of the essay or who do not obtain a pass mark in the essay (18 or above) will take the assessment of Format 2.

1. Oral exam (3 open questions, with no choice, 0 to 31). All the questions will have equal weight and will be evaluated with a score from 0 (in case of no answer) to 31 points (in case of excellent answer). The overall evaluation of the exam will be given by the average of the evaluation of the three answers.

Scores higher than 30 correspond to a mark of 30 with honours.

### Assessment criteria

In the oral exam required both in Format 1 and Format 2, students must demonstrate:

* Knowledge of fundamental notions and key concepts on the three macro groups of crimes covered in the course.
* Ability to present notions and concepts in a clear, concise and formally correct way.
* Ability to critically analyse the crime theories covered in the course.

Therefore, the assessment criteria will be: correctness of contents, logical organisation of answers, conceptual and presentation clarity, capacity for synthesis, appropriate use of specific terminology, critical thinking. For both exam formats, the questions will be randomly extracted from a set of possible questions that will be shared with the students towards the end of the course.

In the *essay* for Format 1, students must demonstrate to be able to complete a short paper independently (maximum 10,000 characters for the entire document) choosing from one of the titles proposed by the lecturer. The main assessment criteria will be argumentative and coherent structuring, accuracy and adequacy of language, thorough referencing of the reading list, and correct use of sources and data. Further details on essay writing and its assessment will be provided during the course and summarised on Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

### Attendence

Attendance is strongly encouraged in view of the specialist and constantly-changing nature of the content and of the participatory nature of the lectures.

### Use of blackboard

Updated course programme, lecture material, reading material not available in the library, instructions and further documents will be published on the course page on Blackboard. The Blackboard page will also be the tool to announce changes to schedule, information on exams, etc.

All students (attending and non-attending, regular and supplementary-year students) are encouraged to sign up to the Backboard course for the academic year 2023-2024 and regularly check the page (please register with an email address that clearly shows your name and surname).

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to attend the course. However, previous basic knowledge of main criminological theories, ability to understand texts in English, and competence in the use of writing programmes will be beneficial to complete the course.

### Healthcare situation

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.