UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Criminal Law

2021-3-E3901N052

Learning objectives

The course offers a basic knowledge of criminal law's rules, including an overview of the crimes most significant in the praxis of social work. Expertise in criminal law are important for social workers considering, on one side, the criminal protection that vulnerable people may receive and, on the other side, the need to cooperate with legal practitioners and law enforcers. The attention to law in action, in addition to the law in the books, will give awareness of the problems that arise from the criminal law intervention in the different areas of suffering and social exclusion in which the social operator has to work.

Contents

Special attention will receive the basic principles and rules of the criminal law (regarding the actus reus and the mens rea) as well as the sentencing and the execution of the sentence. In addition, the issue of criminal liability of social workers will be considered.

Detailed program

At the beginning attention will be addressed to the characteristics of the law in criminal matters in view of the constitutional principles in this area. Afterwards we will focus on the constitutive elements of a crime (the actus reus, the mens rea and defenses), as well as on the different ways of committing a crime (i.e. attempt and conspiracy). Considerations will be finally dedicated to the criminal sanctions system (including the phase of sentencing), in order to become aware of the prison system in our Country, with all its problems and inadequacies.

With regard to the single offenses, we will analyse assault against individual above all, with an emphasis on crimes

against vulnerable people and gender-oriented. In addition we will take a look at the crimes which can be committed by a social worker while carrying out his tasks.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Teaching methods

The course will be developed using power point presentations and with special attention to the jurisprudence (i.e. the law in action).

Working group will be encouraged for the deepening of the most interesting topics. It will be organized a visit to a prison of the town and meeting with different professionals of the criminal justice system, like judges, lawyers, prison officers etc.

Assessment methods

Students attending the lessons can afford a written intermediate test on the first part of the studying program (the characteristics of the law in criminal matters, the elements of the crime, the sanctions). The success in the intermediate test allows students to lighten the load of the final oral exam, which will be limited to the analysed crimes against individual or will be replaced by the working group carried out during the course.

Students not attending the lessons will afford an oral exam on the topics addressed to in the handbook.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

G. Neppi Modona, D. Petrini, B. Giors (a cura di), *Diritto penale e servizio sociale*, Giappichelli, Torino, 2016.

Students attending the lessons will have the opportunity to choice the offenses on which they want to afford the second part of the exam.