



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Deviance and Social Control

2425-3-E4001N132

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, students will have acquired:

- Key Concepts Knowledge: Understanding of the historical and intellectual context of reference and the political and social implications of the main socio-criminological theories of interpretation of deviance and social control.
- Cultural Background: Ability to critically evaluate the evolution of deviance and, within it, of crime.
- Analytical Skills: Ability to understand and analyze the main forms of deviance and social control, the power dynamics and social relations that influence them.
- Theoretical Application: Ability to apply this theoretical knowledge to critically evaluate the mechanisms of identity construction and order in contemporary society.

Through the exploration of the main socio-criminological theoretical approaches, students will acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the different interpretations of deviance and social control, with particular attention to the socio-economic contexts in which these theories have arisen, their political implications and their impact on society.

Contents

- Introduction to the course and assessment methods;
- Conceptualization of deviance and social control;
- Major socio-criminological theories of deviance and social control:
 - Nature and causes of deviance and social control,
 - Crime as a form of deviance,
 - Political implications of specific theoretical perspectives;
- Case studies, research findings, and in-depth discussions.

Detailed program

This course delves into the fundamental concepts of norms, laws, conformity, deviance, marginalization, criminality, labeling, social control, repression, and the construction of consensus and order. It explores the primary socio-criminological theoretical approaches to understanding these phenomena while also considering biological, psychological, and economic interpretive frameworks. Through critical analysis of these theories, the course guides students towards understanding and interpreting the socio-political causes of deviance, crime, and social control.

Prerequisites

No prior knowledge of sociology of deviance or criminology is required.

Teaching methods

The course consists of 56 hours of in-person instruction, approximately 50% of which involves expository teaching (lectures with slide support) and 50% interactive teaching (presentations of examples and practical cases, class discussions, exercises). The course includes periods of independent study of classroom materials and manuals. Attendance is highly recommended, considering the interactive nature of some lessons.

Assessment methods

Both attending and non-attending students will be evaluated through an oral exam based on three questions concerning the course topics and the text indicated in the bibliography. Through the colloquium, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the socio-criminological theories studied in the course and the ability to apply these theories to analyze deviance and forms of control in the context of contemporary societies.

- Evaluation of each question with a score from 0 (in case of no answer) to 31 points (in case of an impeccable answer).
- The three questions contribute equally to the final grade.
- The average of the scores of the three questions will correspond to the final grade.
- Scores higher than 30 correspond to a grade of 30 and lode (with honors).

Consequently, the evaluation criteria for the oral exam are:

1. Knowledge of socio-criminological theories and ability to apply the theories to the analysis of deviance and social control.
2. Command of language - appropriate use of technical jargon.
3. Precision in the logical presentation of arguments.
4. Ability to build connections between the various topics.
5. Coherence and completeness of the presentation.
6. Analytical skills in commenting on the texts and case studies.
7. Ability to synthesize.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The expected bibliography includes:

- Tim Newburn. Criminology. London: Routledge. 2017. Only the chapters indicated on the professor's web page.
Or
- Franco Prina. Devianza e criminalità. Concetti, metodi di ricerca, cause, politiche. Rome: Carocci. 2019.
Only the chapters indicated on the professor's web page.
Materials are available at the University's library.
- Scientific papers and chapters from handbooks uploaded on Moodle.

Sustainable Development Goals

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES
