

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Le Organizzazioni Complesse

2526-3-E1601N078

Learning objectives

- **Knowledge and understanding**: The course provides students with theoretical and empirical tools to analyze criminal organizations as complex social and economic actors.
- Applying knowledge and understanding: Students will learn to identify the main features of mafia-type organizations and to carry out organizational analyses.
- **Making judgements**: The course develops the ability to critically evaluate sources, interpretations, and policies for combating organized crime.
- **Communication skills**: Students will be able to clearly present analyses and arguments on the topics covered, both in written and oral form.
- Learning skills: The course fosters the acquisition of skills necessary to independently explore the phenomenon of organized crime.

Contents

The course focuses on the following topics:

- mafias as organizations: dimensions and organizational levels;
- organizational analysis of mafia-type groups;
- · activities and organizational structures;
- · organizational orders and the use of violence;
- rules and rituals;
- how they communicate;

- environments and markets;
- expansion into non-traditional areas;
- · organizational dilemmas.

Detailed program

Criminal organizations are secret societies generally articulated on a hierarchical basis. Members of criminal organizations form groups in order to pursue economic gains. Mafias are criminal organizations whose main characteristic is to seek the monopoly of illegal economic activities. Mafias are a very specialized subset in the set of organized crime groups: they are extra-legal government structures attempting to control the supply of protection. Mafias are groups who aspire to govern markets and territories, offering 'services' to their customers, such as protection against extortion, the elimination of competition, etc. In this class, we will analyze different organizational aspects of mafias, among which: their activities, their rules, norms, and rituals; the organizational levels of mafias; mafia as clan-based form of organization; communication and cooperation among criminals; mafia markets and environments; mafia presence in non-traditional areas. The class will also discuss different orientations and approaches to the study of the Mafia, such as the Mafia as a cultural phenomenon, as hyper centralized organization, etc. Finally, particular attention will be devoted to the phenomena of diffusion to new areas, such as Northern Italy, and the socio-economic factors that makes it possible for mafia organization to take roots in different environments and lines of business.

Prerequisites

Elements of logical reasoning, and knowledge of current events.

Teaching methods

Lectures. Analysis of case-studies. Class team-work.

The course consists of 56 hours, with approximately 60% dedicated to traditional teaching methods and 40% to interactive teaching methods.

Assessment methods

The methods of assessment are currently being defined. This section will be updated as soon as possible, and in any case before the beginning of the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

All the students (book and other material should be read in full):

M. Catino (2019), Mafia organizations. The visible hand of criminal enterprise, Cambridge, Cambridge University

Press.			

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE