UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Organizational Deviance and Corporate Crime

2526-2-F8803N015

Learning objectives

- Knowledge and understanding: acquire the theoretical and methodological knowledge to develop processes and methods for analyzing organizational deviance and corporate crime.
- Applied knowledge and understanding: apply the knowledge acquired to understand and neutralize the processes of organizational deviance, and the analytical skills to understand how organizations promote, manage, and react to deviant events.
- Autonomy of judgment: develop critical assessments of cases of organizational deviance, and the ability to perform organizational analysis, including case studies and practical application.
- Communication skills: present analyses and arguments clearly and coherently, even in group discussions, using appropriate disciplinary language and comparative references.
- Learning skills: the ability to find, understand, use, and critique secondary organizational literature; consolidate an independent learning method through critical reading of scientific texts, comparative analysis of case studies, and personal reworking of the content covered.

Contents

Tools and concepts for in-depth analysis and critical understanding of the processes of organizational deviance and corporate crime and the organizational determinants that may promote their occurrence and recurrence.

Detailed program

Modern and contemporary societies are founded on organizations. Their influence in our daily lives has grown over time and today they dominate our scenario, wielding enormous power, distributing countless benefits and in some cases generating negative consequences. All interests-economic, political, social and cultural-are pursued through organizations. Organizations can produce negative outcomes unintentionally (accidents, disasters) or intentionally (misconduct, malfeasance, corporate crime).
Starting from an organizations theory approach, the course analyzes crimes committed by companies and organizations. The focus is on the behavior of organizations in their operational network, rather than on the individuals who commit violations. The emphasis on the deviant and illegal actions of individuals produces an incomplete and poor account of corporate crimes. Therefore, the course aims to provide students with tools and concepts for in-depth analysis and critical understanding of the processes of organizational deviance and corporate crimes from an integrated perspective: micro (individual deviant action, individuals), meso (the work context, the organization) and macro (the organizational field and its institutional logics of operation).
Students will develop a general knowledge of the most common types of corporate crimes in order to develop a deeper understanding of current events and the logic of law enforcement. Some thematic focuses will be conducted during the course to develop, with students, simulations of activation of the concepts and tools studied, including through the analysis of teaching cases. These activities are also aimed at fostering the development of critical thinking, argumentation, and presentation skills.

Prerequisites

Sufficient knowledge of logic and general culture.

Teaching methods

The Course consists of 56 hours, about 40% of which will be didactic delivery (lectures with use of slides, audio and video) and 60% with interactive teaching (exercises, subgroup work, presentation of case studies from which to develop individual and subgroup work, prepared and discussed during the course, etc.). All lectures will be held on campus, in person.

Assessment methods

Attending and nonattending students will be assessed through a written test based on open-ended questions regarding the course topics and the materials indicated in the “Reference Texts.” No intermediate tests are scheduled.
The objective of the learning assessment is to check the preparation on the examination program and the ability to reflect independently on the critical points of the program.
The evaluation criteria for the written test are:

1. ownership of language - appropriate use of terms;
2. accuracy in logical exposition of topics;
3. ability to construct connections between topics;
4. completeness of exposition in view of time constraints;
5. analytical ability in commenting on chosen study texts.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Attending and non-attending students
Reading files of texts available online, to be studied in full.

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE