UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Violence

2526-1-F8702N011

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

Mastering the socio-criminological approaches to the phenomenon of violence and to its associated conflicts, starting from the notion of legal and cultural pluralism. Critical analysis of the possible prevention policies and intervention strategies on a local and global level.

Applying knowledge and understanding

• interpretation of the phenomenon of violence in its multiple forms through case studies

• ability to apply qualitative methodologies

• ability to dialogue with other disciplines

• planning of prevention policies

Judgement Autonomy
Ability to critically reflect independently on the issues of conflict and violence.

Communication Skills
Proficiency in interdisciplinary and socio-criminological language.

Ability to Learn Independently
Acquisition of cognitive tools to update one's knowledge and apply it to conflictual and violent contexts of socio-criminological relevance.

Contents

Starting from the idea that in real socio-legal life a plurality of legal and cultural spaces operates simultaneously on different scales and from different interpretative perspective, the course will deal with the phenomenon of violence (individual, collective and “ecological”) by using a comparative and multi-disciplinary approach which favours socio-criminological contributions. It will present theoretical and methodological grids helpful in navigating through the diverse forms of violence which cross the plural worlds of today and also in planning adequate preventive policies.

Detailed program

Starting from the idea that in real socio-legal life a plurality of legal and cultural spaces operates simultaneously on different scales and from different interpretative perspective, the course will tackle the problem of violence, by using a multidisciplinary and comparative approach, which favours socio-criminological contributions to the understanding of the issue. The first part will study in depth individual and collective violence, analysing its origins, its processes, the conflicts linked to it, its effects and any possible answers in preventive terms, with a particular emphasis on the cultural differences which articulate its possible expressions. The second part of the course will turn its attention to a different type of violence, the so-called “ecological violence”, posing questions on new forms of harm and victimization in relation to environmental crimes and also on policies adequate to reduce their consequences. On the basis of these reflections, it will be possible to propose theoretical and methodological tools to be used to navigate the complex dynamics of the multiple forms of violence found in the plural and turbulent worlds of today. In particular:

- definition of individual and collective violence

- micro-sociological approaches and radical interactionism

- social perception of violence

- qualitative methodologies

- urban violence

- ecological violence

- socio-environmental conflicts

- environmental victimization

- preventive and harm-reduction policies

Prerequisites

Good skills in learning, writing and oral communication in Italian and/or English.

Teaching methods

The course will be delivered in English. Throughout the course, the active role of the students will be enhanced and they will be able to put into practice the proposed theoretical and methodological approaches through opportunities for discussion and also through the use of videos and simulations.

- 24 two-hour lessons held in presence, with a first part in frontal mode (DE) and a second part aimed at involving students in an interactive way (DI).
- 1 one-hour lesson delivered remotely.

Assessment methods

Oral Exam: the oral exam consists in a discussion based on the monographs and articles described in the course programme. During the oral exam, it is also possible to discuss a written work previously agreed upon with the professor and developed starting from the theoretical contents indicated in the bibliography.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1° group:

Ceretti A, Natali L (2009). Cosmologie violente. Percorsi di vite criminali. Milano: Cortina.

Ceretti, A., Natali, L. (2020) Exploring Violent Cosmologies From a “Radical Interactionist” Approach. Critical Criminology (2020). (open access:)

Athens, L. (2017), The Creation of Dangerous Violent Criminals (2nd edition). New York: Taylor and Francis, pp. 103-148

Ceretti, A, Natali, L (2019). Criminologia del genocidio, interazionismo radicale e processi di violentizzazione. Il genocidio ruandese. RASSEGNA ITALIANA DI CRIMINOLOGIA, 13, pp. 174-185.

Ceretti A, Natali L (2015). “Strani frutti. Uno sguardo criminologico e visuale alla comprensione dei linciaggi come tortura pubblica”. In P. Di Lucia, L. Mancini (a cura di), La giustizia vendicatoria. Pisa: ETS, pp. 179-190.

Athens, L. (2017), “Applying Violentization: From Theory to Praxis”, Victims and Offenders, 12 (4), pp. 497-522

Santos, B. (1987) “Law: A Map of Misreading. Toward a Postmodern Conception of Law”. Journal of Law and Society, 14 (3), pp. 279-302.

2° group:

Natali, L. 2015, Green criminology. Prospettive emergenti sui crimini ambientali. Giappichelli

Natali, L. (2019) Per una green criminology. La costruzione sociale e politica del danno ambientale, in Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia, 2, pp. 331-356, doi: 10.1423/94634

Natali, L. 2014, “Green criminology e vittimizzazione ambientale. Verso nuove riflessività”, Studi sulla questione criminale, 1-2, pp. 81-98.

Natali, L, De Nardin Budó, M (2019). A sensory and visual approach for comprehending environmental victimization by the asbestos industry in Casale Monferrato. EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINOLOGY, 16, pp. 708-727.

Natali, L, White, R (2019). The ecocide-genocide nexus: a green criminology perspective. RASSEGNA ITALIANA DI CRIMINOLOGIA, 13, pp. 186-195.

Natali, L. (2017), “The Contribution of Green Criminology to the Exploration of ‘Historical Pollution’”. In S. Manacorda, F. Centonze (eds.) ‘Historical Pollution’. Comparative Legal Responses to Environmental Crimes. Springer, pp. 21-56.

Santos, B. (1987) “Law: A Map of Misreading. Toward a Postmodern Conception of Law”. Journal of Law and Society, 14 (3), pp. 279-302.

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS