UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# Social History of Crime

**2526-1-F8805N006**

## Learning objectives

The course aims to make known and understood the criminal phenomena of the contemporary age and their social, political and cultural articulations and repercussions, in Europe and above all in Italy from the foundation of the unitary state to more recent years.
At the end of the course, students must have acquired knowledge and historical awareness of the evolution of criminal phenomena through the study of statistics, the "scientific" construction of deviant typologies, the social and cultural projections of the criminal world and the contrast tools of the state apparatuses.
Specifically, in terms of the expected outcomes, students must be able to:

1. learn the fundamental knowledge of contemporary social history.
2. understand the historical context of criminal data and phenomena.
3. develop a method for researching information and critically evaluate sources.
4. be able to correctly present the information and knowledge acquired, both orally and, where appropriate, in written papers.
5. learn the ability to independently research sources and to learn and expand knowledge.

## Contents

The main theme of the course is the study of the historical series of crimes, of the scientific and political debate on deviance, of the forms of repression and of the social and media representation of crimes between the 19th and 20th centuries.

## Detailed program

The course aims to provide students with tools and concepts for analysis and for a knowledge of the nature of crimes in Europe and in Italy, the history of law enforcement tools and the social representations of deviance. In particular, we will work on the statistical series of criminal phenomena, on the socio-political and juridical debate on their definition and on the means of contrast and repression put in place by the State. Then the analysis of newspapers and information media and of artistic interpretations or reinterpretations, such as cinematographic films, will make it possible to address the formation and diffusion of the "common sense" of the public opinion.
The course therefore aims to build a training course that combines the analysis of data from the history of crime with the study of the legal and scientific debate about the forms of deviance. Nonetheless, particular attention will be paid to the social representations of crime through images and popular dissemination of the figures of victims and "perpetrators", in the awareness that crime as "social guilt" is also a very complex cultural process. At the end of the lessons, students should have acquired awareness of the polysemous nature of the study of criminal phenomena in the history of contemporary and mass society.

## Prerequisites

Knowledge of the fundamental coordinates of modern and contemporary history. Those who are aware of having gaps in basic preparation are advised to study a history textbook among those used in three-year degree courses.

## Teaching methods

TEACHING TYPE: All lectures are conducted in presence in delivery mode:

- 18 lectures of 3 hours plus 1 lecture of 2 hours conducted in the in-presence delivery mode.
  The lessons are held in Italian

## Assessment methods

Type of exam:
Final oral exam (without intermediate tests) on the topics covered in class and on the contents of the reference bibliography.

Evaluation criteria:
The following will be assessed:
knowledge of the historical framework, i.e. the facts, figures, case studies and thematic nodes, developed in the lessons and/or in the bibliography
the ability to establish connections between events and concepts
the ability to express oneself in an organized way with proper language

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. R. Canosa, Storia della criminalità in Italia. 1845-1945, Einaudi, 1991.
2. R. Canosa, Storia della criminalità in Italia dal 1946 a oggi, Feltrinelli, 1995.

## Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS