

# COURSE DETAIL

## CRIMINOLOGY OF THE BORDERS

**Country**

Italy

**Host Institution**

University of Bologna

**Program(s)**

University of Bologna

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Sociology Political Science International Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

189

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

D

**UCEAP Official Title**

CRIMINOLOGY OF THE BORDERS

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

CRIMINOLOGY BORDERS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

## Course Description

This is a graduate level course that is part of the Laurea Magistrale program. The course is intended for advanced level students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. The course gives students a general overview and understanding of the international and European criminological debate concerning border control and a detailed knowledge of key topics and key scholars in the field. Students are expected to be able to combine their knowledge of different contexts and disciplinary approaches when analyzing border policies. Students acquire the competencies and knowledge necessary to analyze critically the contemporary policies of border control in different contexts, also in view of possible fields of work and research: border police, the role and functioning of administrative detention and deportation, the international relations of the externalization of borders, the use of criminal law in border control.

The course presents the contemporary debate in the field known as "border criminology". At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to analyze the mechanisms of power subtending the processes of illegalization, detention, deportation, refusal, and criminalization of migrants. The perspective developed in the course embraces a critical approach and considers law, policies, and discourses as entrenched factors in driving the mechanisms of border control. The focus of the analysis is the European context, analyzed through comparative perspective as much as possible. Special attention is given to the intersection of race, class, and gender in the law-making and law-enforcement activities. Not only is the securitization of border taken into account, but also the more recently emerged "humanitarian control" is considered as an object of possible criminological enquiry.

Lectures first introduce the students to the critical perspective in criminology and to the main topics of the theoretical debate of border criminology. It then provides an introduction to the theoretical key concepts in border criminology, and especially the question of punishment, the nature of borders, and the transnational perspective we aim to adopt in the course,

with an attention to the possibility of transforming borders from below. Then, the lectures investigate the different countries in Europe where one can observe the mechanisms of border control, highlighting the variety of cases. Each of them is discussed through empirical and theoretical researches carried out in different contexts.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

87161

**Host Institution Course Title**

CRIMINOLOGY OF THE BORDERS

**Host Institution Course Details**

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

**Host Institution Campus**

BOLOGNA

**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree**

LM in INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Host Institution Department**

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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