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

4.00

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

Print