

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICS OF COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

124

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICS OF COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE

UCEAP Transcript Title

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UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale degree program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. The course aims to provide an advanced understanding of the types, the causes, and the dynamics of political and criminal violence. At the end of the course, students are familiar with classical and contemporary theories on the origins of political violence, with studies on the different forms of organized violence, and with current research on how violence is exercised. Students are also familiar with the major methodological debates in the study of violence.

The course examines different types of collective violence, including violence occurring in civil wars, instances of state repression, mafia, and gang violence. It explores the different “types” of violence, defining their main features and uncovering their rationale through a plurality of approaches. Ultimately, the class provides the theoretical and empirical tools to study violence in its relations with political order(s). The course is divided in two sections. The first section - conducted through frontal lectures - explores classic types of “political violence” (such as civil wars, revolutions and terrorism) looking at their origins and dynamics, then looks second section deals with violence perpetrated by states (such as repressions and genocides) and violence that occurs within states that does not challenge their existence or regime (such as that perpetrated by organized crime and gangs). The second section - run as a seminar in which students present and discuss the assigned material - looks at the organizations that “produce” violence, and namely at insurgent and mafia groups, analyzing their emergence, their internal functioning, and their relations with violence.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

B5574,91295

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICS OF COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE

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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