

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Criminal and Restorative Justice
Course Code	53157
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GIUR-14/A
Language	Italian
Degree Course	Master in Social Work and Social Policy
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Kolis Summerer, kolis.summerer@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/education/academic-staff/person/27181
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	2
CP	6
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	114
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	Overview of the criminal justice system and restorative justice: principles, legal foundations, and current reforms.
Course Topics	The course examines the fundamental principles of the criminal justice system, with particular attention to the function of punishment and its transformations in the national and European context. Special emphasis is placed on the development of restorative justice as a complementary model to traditional punitive responses, aimed at fostering offender accountability, enhancing the role of the victim, and restoring social relationships.

	The course also explores alternatives to criminal proceedings and punishment, highlighting their purposes, scope of application, and critical issues. Through the analysis of legal sources, case law, and practical experiences, the course provides students with critical tools to understand the contemporary evolution of criminal justice.
Keywords	Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Penitentiary Law, penalties, rehabilitation, restorative justice.
Recommended Prerequisites	The course requires a basic knowledge of the fundamental principles of law, in particular constitutional law and criminal law. Familiarity with the basic concepts of criminal procedure and the functioning of judicial institutions is recommended. The ability to read and understand legal texts is also important.
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	The lesson takes place remotely.
Mandatory Attendance	In accordance with the regulation
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	- Understand the foundations of restorative justice in the criminal system - Analyze tools and practices of restorative justice - Evaluate the role of community and victims - Reflect on the complementarity between punitive and restorative justice - analyze principles and sources of restorative justice - develop proposals for restorative interventions - reflect on the role of community in the restorative process
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	The course aims to provide the essential tools for understanding the current legislative framework in criminal matters. The objective is also the acquisition of the ability to utilise regulatory sources in order to promote the autonomous search for solutions to recurrent legal problems in the performance of the social educator's professional activity. Disciplinary skills Knowledge and understanding - the student knows the main concepts, principles and operational tools of criminal law and criminal procedure, as well as of the juvenile penal system;

	- the student is able to find, understand and use the relevant normative sources. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding - the student is able to apply knowledge to concrete cases arising in practice - the student is able to identify legal problems, applying correct solutions and developing rational arguments. Transversal/soft skills Autonomy of judgement - the student is able to develop a historical and problematic approach to the topics dealt with; - the student is able to develop a personal reflection, also in a critical key, on the legal issues emerging in the professional field; - the student is able to reflect on the most topical issues of criminal justice and criminal policy. Communication skills - the student is able to use appropriate legal language - the student is able to set issues in legal and professional terms; - the student is able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions. Learning skills - the student is able to read and understand criminal law and criminal procedure documents
Assessment	The final examination will be exclusively oral and will cover the topics covered in the course.
Evaluation Criteria	The grade will be awarded according to the following criteria - relevance and depth - clarity of expression and command of legal language - argumentative skills - critical analysis and personal reflection
Required Readings	G. Forti, F. Giunta, G. Varraso, Manuale di diritto penitenziario, 2. ed., Milano, 2024, limited to chap. I, II, VI and VII. M. Bouchard, F. Fiorentin, La giustizia riparativa, Milano, 2024, limited to chap. I, II, IV, V and VI.
Supplementary Readings	I. Mastropasqua (a cura di), Manuale di giustizia riparativa e lavoro sociale, Roma, 2025.

	G. De Santis, L. Della Ragione, G. J. Sicignano (a cura di), Lezioni di diritto penale per operatori sociali, Torino, 2026 (forthcoming).
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities