



O.P. Jindal Global University
A Private University Promoting Public Service



COURSE MANUAL

Understanding crimes in Global World

Bhavya Tandon

Jindal Institute of Behavioral Sciences (JIBS)

4 Credit Course

**SPRING SEMESTER
COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Title: Understanding crimes in Global World		
Course Code	BE-E-0096	
Course Duration	1 Semester	
No. of Credit Units	4	
Level	UG	
Pre-Requisites	Nil	
Pre-Cursors	Nil	
Equivalent Courses	Nil	
Exclusive Courses	Nil	
Class Timing

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Faculty Contact: Bhavya Tandon

Email: btandon@jgu.edu.in

Office Hours: By prior appointment on Monday, 12-2PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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This course explores the crimes committed by powerful entities, including states, corporation and criminal organisations. It explores these crimes through the lens of criminology and *zemiology* (the study of social harm). Moving beyond a narrow focus on legal definition of crime, it explore how structural inequalities and abuses of power produce greater harm, that are often invisible or normalised. The course also addresses the challenges of regulating and controlling such crimes, especially when perpetrators hold social, political and economic power.

Course Aims:

1. Understanding various forms of power and its influence on crime.
2. Analysing crimes committed by states, corporations, and criminal organisations through both criminology and zemiological
3. perspectives.
4. Exploring white collar crimes and their societal impact. Investigating environmental crimes and their broader consequences.
5. Promoting a deeper understanding of state crimes and human rights abuse.

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Readings:** Reading materials and a set of questions will be sent via email at the beginning of each unit.
- **Short videos:** In class, we will use short films and documentaries to facilitate our discussions on various topics.

- **Case studies:** In class, we will use case studies to deepen our understanding of crimes in the global world. These case studies will be emailed to everyone before the class discussion on that specific case.
- **Visit to Brain Behavioural Lab:** Explore the role of the brain in regulating emotions, motivation, and decision-making.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Be prompt!

We're going to get started right on time, so make sure you're here and ready to go. If you arrive within the first two minutes, you get bonus points (figuratively speaking, of course). But if you're more than ten minutes late, we'll miss you too much to let you in.

Speak up!

This class is all about participation, so make sure you're ready to share your ideas, opinions, and questions. We want to hear what you have to say! And if you're not sure about something, just ask.

Be respectful!

We're all in this together, so let's treat each other with kindness and consideration. That means being respectful when someone else is speaking (no interrupting, please) and listening carefully to what they have to say. And even if we don't always agree, we can still be friends.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes (100% attendance). A student who fails to attend a class is expected to inform the Course Instructor, orally or in writing, the reason for his or her absence. A minimum of 75% attendance is mandatory, failing which, student is not permitted to take the final exam or end term exam.

Notes on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not acceptable! Please refrain from copying and pasting paragraphs and sentences from your reading materials. This include copying someone's words, structure, grammar, ideas, thoughts, and phrases and passing them as your own. Too many quotes are not acceptable!

What is acceptable? Using one quote which is not more than 40 words with proper citation. Use citation! It's a must! Present the content you read from your reading materials in your own words! Think and critically analyse the content! The source should be always acknowledged in your written material and presentation. All papers in this class will be checked electronically for plagiarism.

Safe Space Pledge

Some parts of this course may discuss a range of issues that might result in distress for some students. Discussions and images in the course might also provoke strong emotional responses. To make sure that all students collectively benefit from the course, and do not feel troubled due to either the contents of the course, or the conduct of the discussions, it is incumbent upon all within the classroom to pledge to maintain respect towards our peers. This does not mean that you need to feel restrained about what you feel and what you want to say. Conversely, this is about creating a safe space where everyone can speak and learn without inhibition and fear. This responsibility lies not only on students, but also the instructor.

Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements

JGU endeavors to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations are required to register with the Disability Support Committee dsc@jgu.edu.in. The Committee has so far identified the following conditions that could possibly hinder student's overall well-being. These include: physical and mobility related difficulties; visual impairment; hearing impairment; medical conditions; specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia; mental health.

The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. The students should preferably register with the Committee in the first week of the semester as disability accommodation requires early planning. DSC will approve and coordinate all the disability related services such as appointment of academic mentors, specialized interventions and course related requirements such as accessible classrooms for lectures, tutorials and examinations.

All faculty members are required to refer students with any of the above-mentioned conditions to the Disability Support Committee for addressing disability-related accommodation requirements.

Centre for Wellness and Counseling Services:

Contact: Email ID: cwcs@jgu.edu.in

Mobile: +91 8396907312

ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

The course will be majorly taught using class discussions, anecdotes, presentations, readings, and experiential exercises. The evaluations will include in-class activities, individual and group presentations, written assignments, quizzes, and projects.

Percentage breakdown of Grade:

70% internal (MCQ, group presentation, class test and class participation) & 30% end semester (closed book) exam.

1. Class Participation 10 Marks

Class participation is an essential aspect of learning that plays a significant role in the overall success of a course. Your participation will be evaluated to determine your level of

engagement, critical thinking, and communication skills. You must actively engage in the course activities and discussions to earn a maximum of 5 marks for class participation. This means attending all classes, arriving on time, and being prepared with the necessary materials. You should also demonstrate a willingness to participate in group activities, ask questions, and offer insights on course material.

This is an ongoing assessment.

2. Online in-class quiz 10 Marks

3. Group presentation 40 marks:

For the group presentations, each group will be responsible for presenting a module corresponding to their group number (i.e., Group 1 presents Module 1, Group 2 presents Module 2, and so on). The presentations are designed to be creative and engaging, allowing for a variety of formats to best showcase your group's understanding and insights.

Presentation Format: Your presentation can take any of the following forms, depending on your group's preference:

- Podcast: Create an audio discussion or interview exploring the module topic.
- Comic Strip: Illustrate the concepts of the module in a creative and visual manner.
- Act/Skits: Perform a short drama or role-play to demonstrate key points of the module.
- Movie Review: Analyse and review a movie that relates to the module, discussing its relevance to the topic.
- Case Review: Present and analyse a real or hypothetical case study relevant to the module.

Presentation Time: 40 minutes. This includes any setup time, presentation, and demonstrations.

- Q&A Session: 20 minutes. After your presentation, the class will have an opportunity to ask questions, and your group should be prepared to discuss and elaborate on your topic.

4. Movie Analysis (Class Test) 10 Marks

We will watch a movie that will align with our course and you must demonstrate a clear understanding of a particular theme and concept. You will be evaluated on your understanding of the assigned topic, critical thinking and analysing of various film elements.

(Closed book and timed)

Important Notice:

In the event that you miss any of your assessment deadlines, **no alternative test or makeup opportunity will be provided.** It is crucial to attend the test, be present on the day of your group presentation and send in your social media campaign results as scheduled to avoid any loss of marks.

Grading of Student Assessment

Letter	Percentage	Grade	Interpretation
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Grade	of Marks	Points	
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION TO CRIME AND SOCIAL HARM

This unit introduces students to the relationship between power, crime and social harm. It traces how economic, political, and ideological forms of power influence both the commission and recognition of crime under criminology and criminal law. In the late 1990s, a group of academics began a series of conversations about how a concept of social harm could be more progressively developed as an alternative to crime. Mainstream criminology has often confined itself to acts that is defined in law, but Zemiology challenges this narrow lens by foregrounding the wider harms created by states, corporations and institutions. Central to this approach lies a commitment to treating ‘harm’ as a fundamentally more meaningful concept than ‘crime’ for understanding and addressing the wide range of harmful social phenomena that we experience ‘from the cradle to the grave’.

Readings:

- Jalloh, C. (2019). A Classification of the Crimes in the Malabo Protocol. In C. Jalloh, K. Clarke, & V. Nmehielle (Eds.), *The African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in Context: Development and Challenges* (pp. 225-256). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108525343.009
- A. Boukli and J. Kotzé (eds.), *Zemiology, Critical Criminological Perspectives*, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-76312-5_3

UNIT II: CRIMES OF THE POWERFUL

In this unit, the students would examine forms of crime that traditional criminology has historically struggled to address: crimes that are committed by those in positions of political, economical and social power. Unlike conventional street crime, crimes of the powerful often remain invisible, normalised, or redefined as legitimate acts of governance or business. They highlight the paradox that the gravest harms in society often escape criminalisation because the perpetrators are the very actors who define legality and control systems of enforcement. Students would examine how the law often functions as a shield for powerful actors, rendering social harms invisible while criminalising marginalised population.

Readings:

- The Corporation and Crime. (2017). In G. Baars & A. Spicer (Eds.), *The Corporation: A Critical, Multi-Disciplinary Handbook* (p. 383). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Fisse, B., & Braithwaite, J. (1994). *Corporations, Crime and Accountability* (Theories of Institutional Design). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511659133

UNIT III: STATE, CORPORATE AND ORGANISED CRIME

This unit brings together three interconnected domains of elite crime: state crime, corporate crime, and organised crime. These harms frequently overlap and reinforce each other, creating networks of exploitation, corruption, and violence that operate well beyond the sphere of conventional street crime. Unlike marginalised offenders, states and corporations wield immense political and economic influence, which enables them to shape laws, determine

enforcement priorities, and construct public narratives about what counts as “crime.” The discussion also interrogates the relationship between legality and ethics. Just because a corporation complies with the law does not mean it is ethical or socially responsible. Practices such as tax avoidance, exploitative labour conditions, supply chain opacity, and environmentally destructive projects often remain legal while generating immense social harm. Zemiology pushes beyond narrow legal definitions to foreground these harms, challenging the limits of “business ethics” and “corporate social responsibility” as mere reputation management strategies. At the same time, corporate crimes that do breach the law from corporate manslaughter to fraud and bribery expose the blurred boundaries between legal, ethical, and reputational accountability.

Students will examine how corporate and state harms are adjudicated both in courts and in the court of public opinion. They will also explore how organised crime infiltrates legitimate markets, forming hybrid spaces where state actors, business elites, and criminal networks converge.

Case Studies:

- **The Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984, India)**
- **Enron Scandal (2001, USA)**
- **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (2010, Gulf of Mexico)**
- **Mafia Infiltration of Construction and Waste Disposal (Italy)**
- **The “War on Drugs” (Latin America/USA)**
- **Human Trafficking Networks in South Asia**

Readings:

- Tandon, Bhavya and Jaswal, Raushan Tara (2024) *Expanding criminology: Integrating environmental harm into discourse and practice*. In: Proceedings of the NDIEAS-2024 International Symposium on New Dimensions and Ideas in Environmental Anthropology-2024 (NDIEAS 2024).
- Tombs, S. & Whyte, D. (2015). *The Corporate Criminal*.
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UNIT IV: CRIME AND MIGRATION

This unit examines the intersection of crime, migration and social harm, focusing on how borders have become a key site of criminalisation. Across the globe, migrants and asylum seekers are increasingly subjected to the practice of deportation, detention and arbitrary imprisonment, reflecting how states construct mobility as a matter of “crime control.”

While the practice of state law enforcement draws significant attention, equally important are the everyday harms endured by migrants and asylum seekers that often remain invisible. Drawing on the social harm concept, this unit reframes the study of migration to highlight these ordinary but devastating harms, situating them as central to the analysis of justice at the border.

UNIT V: GREEN CRIMINOLOGY AND GREEN CRIME.

Harm to the environment is an inevitable part of late modern society. This unit provides an introduction to green crimes as defined by Michael J. Lynch. Topics may include economies of wildlife crime, deforestation, state violence, hazardous waste and organised crime, species decline and animal abuse.

- Forms of Green Crimes
- Impact and causes
- Role of law enforcement and social movements
- Case studies, discussion and activity

Readings:

- Melangadi, F. (2017). Environmental Crime and Victimization: A Green Criminological Analysis of the Endosulfan Disaster, Kasargod, Kerala. *International Annals of Criminology*, 55(2), 189-204. doi:10.1017/cri.2017.12
- Aiello, V., Amore, M., Nuvoli, G., & Saleh, F. (2015). Crazy Crimes or Crimes of Crazies? *European Psychiatry*, 30(S1), 1-1. doi:10.1016/S0924-9338(15)31093-2

Suggested Additional Reading

- Katja Franko AAS 2013. Globalization and Crime. Peter ANDREAS and Kelly GREENHILL (eds) 2010. Sex, Drugs and Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict.
- Mangai NATARAJAN (ed.) 2011 International Crime and Justice. Vincenzo RUGGIERO, Nigel SOUTH and Ian TAYLOR (eds) 1998. The New European Criminology: Crime and Social Order in Europe.
- Naim, M. (2010). Illicit: How smugglers, traffickers and copycats are hijacking the global economy. Random House.
- Galeotti, M. (2014). Global crime today: the changing face of organised crime. Routledge.
- Jakobi, A. P. (2013). Common Goods and Evils?: The formation of global crime governance. OUP Oxford.