



**Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara**

**TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME**  
Fall Semester 2021

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# **TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME**

## **SYLLABUS**

current as on 30 September 2021

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

#### **Course Aims**

This course explores the international legal framework to prevent and suppress transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and trafficking in persons. The course outlines and examines the criminology, levels, patterns, and modi operandi of these crime types, their criminalisation in international and domestic laws, and analyses national, regional and international strategies to investigate such crime and prosecute offenders.

The course gives students a comprehensive understanding of contemporary patterns and characteristics of transnational organised crime and relevant international frameworks. The seminars, exercises and working-group sessions during the course invite students to critically reflect on the nature and limitations of international criminal law conventions and understand the rationale of international, regional, and domestic policies in this area.

The course further seeks to improve students' communication, presentation, discussion, and writing skills. The course enhances students' abilities to research policy documents and legal material, critically analyse legislation, case studies and scholarly writing, present to an academic audience, and elaborate practical recommendations for law reform and policy change relevant to the subject area.

Note: The course will be taught, and all assessment will be conducted, exclusively in English language.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Have a general understanding of the nature, characteristics and contemporary patterns of transnational organised crime.
- Have a comprehensive knowledge of the sources of relevant international law, domestic legislation, case law, government sources, and scholarly writing in this field of study.
- Understand relevant government policies in this field and in related areas.

- Identify and structure relevant issues and present them logically.
- Work individually on designated tasks and topics and present outcomes in written and oral form.
- Develop informed, coherent strategies for law reform and policy change in this field of study.
- Discuss topical issues in an open forum.

## GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

### Teaching days and venues

Monday, 13 December 2021	10:00am–4:00pm	room t.b.a.
Wednesday, 15 December 2021	10:00am–4:00pm	room t.b.a.
Friday, 17 December 2021	10:00am–4:00pm	room t.b.a.
Monday, 20 December 2021	10:00am–4:00pm	room t.b.a.
Wednesday, 22 December 2021	10:00am–4:00pm	room t.b.a.

### Teaching and learning method

This course is delivered in seminar-style. Seminars are a forum where, within an analytical framework offered by the course coordinator, students can explore concepts relevant to the topic, examine how relevant policies and laws work, and how relevant skills are put to use. Seminars also offer an interactive forum within which to explore in greater depth the issues relating to transnational organized crime and to engage with other students and the course coordinator in analysing this issue.

As an interactive learning forum, the seminars are dependent upon all students being prepared to engage with the course material, to collaborate with each other and the course coordinator, and to share their ideas and opinions in independent and constructive ways. In a negative sense, the seminars are not for delivering an exclusive and exhaustive account of the material that students need to learn, or read material that students can read themselves.

## COURSE COORDINATOR

Professor Dr Andreas Schloenhardt

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Andreas Schloenhardt is Professor of Criminal Law in the School of Law at The University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia and Honorary Professor of Foreign and International Criminal Law in the Faculty of Law, Department of Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Vienna, Austria. He serves as a consultant to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Andreas holds visiting professorships at the University of Zurich (since 2014) and the University of St Gallen, Switzerland (since 2013).

Andreas' principal areas of research include criminal law, organised crime, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, narco-trafficking, wildlife trafficking, criminology, and immigration and refugee law. He is the author of many books and journal articles and his work is frequently cited by other scholars, in government reports, and judicial decisions, including the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Austria. His recent work focuses on organized crime legislation and international efforts to prevent and suppress migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Andreas has held adjunct appointments and visiting professorships at the University of Ferrara (2021–2022), Bucerius Law School, Hamburg (2016 and 2013), the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law (2011), The University of British Columbia, Vancouver (2007–09), and the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA (2006–09). In 2011–12, Andreas was a recipient of a Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

## COURSE MATERIAL

### Required reading

Prior to commencing the course, students will be given access to all the required reading material for this course. The course material will be provided online. For each day, the material comprises the texts of relevant international law plus supplementary reading.

Students are invited to download, read, and reflect on this material in preparation of each class. The required reading material for each module of the course is set out below in this syllabus.

### Supplementary material

Each part of the course is accompanied by visual material (including PowerPoint presentations and videos), in-class exercises, and a range of supporting documents.

This material is made available to students during the course. For pedagogical reasons, some material will not be released in advance.

## COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

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<b>Monday, 13 December</b>	<b>Introduction to the course</b> Introduction of participants; outline of syllabus <b>Transnational Organized Crime</b> Patterns and Characteristics Criminalising Organized Crime
Reading material	[...]
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<b>Wednesday, 15 December</b>	<b>Drug Trafficking</b> Global illicit drug market National responses and policies International law relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances
Reading material	[...]
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<b>Friday, 17 December</b>	<b>Trafficking in Persons; Smuggling of Migrants</b> Defining trafficking in persons vs smuggling of migrants; Levels and patterns of trafficking in persons; trafficking in persons in international law

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Smuggling of migrants to Europe; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants; limitations and exemptions from criminalisation

Reading material

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**Monday, 20 December**    **Wildlife trafficking**  
Demand and consumption  
Illicit market for wildlife  
International law relating to wildlife trafficking

Reading material

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**Tuesday, 22 December**    **Corruption and money laundering**  
[...]  
**Final exam**  
[...]

Reading material

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## ASSESSMENT

### Course grading

The assessment in this course focuses on the knowledge, skills, and competence of students based on the learning objectives and graduate attributes articulated at the start of this syllabus. Students will be graded on a scale from 0 to 100% (or grade 6–1).

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Outstanding</b> 30 (w Hon)– 28	
<b>Very Good</b> 27–25	
<b>Good</b> 24–22	
<b>Pass</b> 21–18	
<b>3-1</b> <b>Fail</b>	

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## Overview

This course involves two assessment components. Both components must be attempted. Both components will be graded out of 30. The final grade will be composed as follows:

**Class Participation and exercises** (35% of final grade)

**Exam** (65% of final grade)

## Class participation and exercises

Each part of this course is interactive with students expected to engage with the course content and material, discuss their experience and thoughts in class, engage actively and constructively in the discussions, and work independently and in small teams on assigned tasks.

Most parts of this course involve an exercise or assignment, such as case studies, discussion problems, skills training, et cetera. Given the teaching and assessment method used in this course, students are expected to communicate with each other and the course staff.

Students will obtain feedback on their class participation and exercises at the end of the course. The assessment is based on the following criteria:

	Outstanding	Very good	Good	Pass	Fail
Critical analysis and exploration of relevant issues.	30			18	0
Articulate relevant facts and express informed opinions.	30			18	0
Contribution to in-class discussions.	30			18	0
Preparation and presentation of tutorial problems.	30			18	0
Team-work and cooperation with other students.	30			18	0
NOTE: Not all grading criteria are of equal weight.					

## Final exam

At the end of the course, students will undertake a 1-hour exam consisting of 10 multiple choice questions (counting for 10 points) and two open ended questions (counting for 10 points each).

Students will obtain feedback on their assignment. The assessment is based on the following criteria:

	Outstanding	Very good	Good	Pass	Fail
Accuracy of the answer (multiple choice part)	30			18	0

Articulate relevant facts and express informed opinions	30	18	0
Critical analysis and exploration of relevant issues	30	18	0
Expression and style	30	18	0
NOTE: Not all grading criteria are of equal weight.			