Sensor guide Krim 2952/4952 A Criminology of Globalization

The sensor guide is an addition to the general grading guide. The course's learning outcomes can be found here: https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/ikrs/KRIM2952/index.html

Directions given to students on the exam question page:

You must answer both Question 1 and Question 2 based on the syllabus. Question 1 counts for 30% and Question 2 for 70% of the final grade. Use your time wisely!

In Question 1, you are to explain three concepts. It is a good idea to spend about one hour elaborating on these three concepts.

In Question 2, you will **choose either** 2A or 2 B. This is a long-answer question, which means that the answer should include an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion.

You should use a broad variety of syllabus texts actively in your answers to Question 2 and refer to them in your exam. You do not need to refer to exact pages.

General comments to sensors:

The students have the following resources available: the syllabus list (they should therefore be able to get the author's name and year of publication right) and the lecture plan.

The students should receive better grades for grounding their argument/answer in the course literature and demonstrating that they have a thorough understanding and overview of the different syllabi. While they can come with real-life examples, these examples should also provide opportunities for students to draw on and discuss various syllabus texts. The most important thing is that they demonstrate a good understanding of the texts and can discuss them effectively.

References: Students should generally indicate which text they are using and discussing but should not be penalized for stylistic aspects or the absence of a reference list at the end. There is also room for text without references. The sensor is asked to focus on the content of exam answers rather than the structure. The guidelines provided here are suggestions and not an exhaustive description of how the exam can be answered, as students may answer the questions in different and creative ways.

BACHELOR

1. Explain these three concepts

1**) "Glocal"** or "Glocalization" (Robertson 1995 in Franko 2020): The essence of this concept is that the effects brought forth by global and transnational processes can be very local and context-specific – and the researcher can study them locally. The global and local are intertwined, and one purpose of global criminology is to study their dialectics. This is a broad concept, which can be explained in many different ways, to which many syllabus texts refer implicitly (e.g., Vigh 2012) or more explicitly (e.g., Burawoy 2000). It was introduced in lecture 1 by Stambøl, but also in many other later lectures. The answer can have much room for variation and creativity, as well as examples. The students don't have to remember precisely where the term is referenced.

2) International criminal justice.

Syllabi directly dealing with the ICJ are: Franko (2020), Globalization & Crime, Chapter 11; Lohne (2020). The students had two lectures on this topic, presented by Lohne and Gill-Leslie. International criminal law and justice refers to the supranational governance of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The students should be able to distinguish ICJ from "*transnational* criminal justice", which is cross-border police and judicial cooperation against transnational crimes like drug trafficking etc. Yet a certain room for confusion should be allowed.

3) Crimmigration

The syllabus text directly dealing with the concept of crimmigration is *Franko, K. (2020). The Crimmigrant Other: Migration and Penal Power (1 utg.). Routledge.* The concept generally refers to the intersection of criminal law and migration/administrative law, where criminal charges or convictions can have severe immigration consequences, such as deportation.

2. Long questions: Choose either A or B

This question is linked to the course learning outcome "An understanding of and ability to critically assess international crime control and policy and its intellectual foundations". The ability to critically assess international crime control policy also implies a critical view of the concept of "transnational organized crime," as a concept that can evolve over time and according to the priorities of powerful states. Criticizing the concept of "TOC" is something that was taught in various lectures, at least the first two by Stambøl.

A) Discuss the main contributions of a Southern criminology theoretical perspective (first explain what it means, then use examples)

The syllabus text relevant for answering this question is:

- Carrington, K., Hogg, R., & Sozzo, M. (2016). Southern Criminology. British Journal Of Criminology, 56(1), 1–20.
- Nelken, D. (2019). Whose Best Practices? The Significance of Context in and for Transnational Criminal Justice Indicators. Journal of law and society, 46(1), S31–S50.
- Pereda, V. (2022). Why Global North criminology fails to explain organized crime in Mexico. Theoretical criminology, 26(4), 620–640.
- Raineri, L., & Strazzari, F. (2023). The data that we do (not) have: studying drug trafficking and organised crime in Africa. Trends in organized crime, 26(4), 358–378.

What to look for (expected content) Strong answers will:

1. Offer a clear definition of Southern criminology: its intellectual goals (de-centring Global North epistemologies), emphasis on context, historicity, and power relations in knowledge production, and normative/empirical commitments to voices, experiences, and practices from the Global South.
2. Identify main theoretical contributions, such as us, but not limited to:
    a. Attention to global inequality and asymmetric global power dynamics
    b. critique of epistemic dominance of Global North theory and "one-size-fits-all" models (Carrington et al. 2016; Pereda 2022).
    c. Emphasis on context, comparative sensitivity, and the importance of local histories, institutions, and politics (Carrington et al.; Nelken on "best practices" and context).

d. Problematizing universal indicators and metrics: how indicators/best practices can mislead policy and obscure local realities (Nelken 2019).
e. Attention to data politics and methodological limitations: how data scarcity, production, and framing shape what we know about crime (Raineri & Strazzari 2023; Pereda 2022).
f. Normative and methodological implications such as the call for epistemic pluralism, epistemic humility, locally grounded research agendas, and critical reflexivity about who sets research priorities.

B) Discuss different perspectives on "transnational organized crime" based on at least two syllabus texts

This syllabus critically discusses the concept of TOC most explicitly:

1. Varese, F. (2012). How mafias take advantage of globalization: the Russian Mafia in Italy. British Journal of Criminology, 52(2), 235–253. This text empirically disproves the idea that TOC is a growing global threat spreading to new countries and regions, contending that "mafia groups" mainly engage in territorial and local control. While mafias may have a presence in other places, they do not easily transplant and reproduce their governance in new locations.
2. Pereda (2022). Why Global North criminology fails to explain organized crime in Mexico. Theoretical criminology, 26(4), 620–640. Question the validity and universality of the Western TOC conception and criminological theory for the Mexican and Global South contexts.
3. Wiegratz, J., & Stambøl, E. M. (2023). Afterword: The political economy of countering transnational organized crime in Africa. Trends in organized crime, 26(4), 474–486. Discuss the usefulness and instrumentality of the TOC threat conception in (Western) states' efforts of transnational governance – as the agencies who have the power to define what TOC is (like UNODC, Europol, Frontex and so on) and the level of progress in the fight against it are also the ones who get funded according to how the threat is portrayed and measured.
4. Raineri, L., & Strazzari, F. (2023). The data that we do (not) have on studying drug trafficking and organised crime in Africa. Trends in organized crime, 26(4), 358–378. Similar argument to the above, but focusing on drug trafficking, and how data about it are

lacking or methodologically flawed and portrayed in a way to preserve the interests of international (law enforcement) agencies.

However, many other syllabi also draw on or discuss TOC in one way or another – for example, Franko (2020), Vigh (2012), Andreas and Nadelmann (2006), Passas (2000), Müller (2018), Felbab-Brown, and Achilli (2024) – so students don't need to draw on the texts listed above.

The most important thing is the critical discussion and not taking TOC as a given, so the answer should be critical of mainstream accounts of TOC as a growing global threat for which more police cooperation is the solution. This is a primary learning outcome that has been reiterated in several lectures and in many syllabus texts.

There are many ways to answer this question. It is a requirement that the answer is based on at least two syllabus texts, but students can earn a plus by drawing on additional syllabus materials.

MASTER

1. Explain these three concepts

a) The Global South

b) The crimmigrant other

c) Transnational crime control

a): The Global South (expected core elements)

A geopolitical and epistemic category referring to regions historically marginalized in global knowledge production and often associated with former colonies, lower-income countries, or areas outside the dominant Global North. Emphasize that it is both a material/geographic descriptor, as well as an analytic lens that foregrounds power relations in knowledge production. *A strong answer will*, however, also indicate that Southern criminology uses the Global South as an impetus to critique the Global North's epistemic dominance, to emphasize context, history, and local institutions, and to call for epistemic pluralism (drawing on Carrington et al., 2016).

b). The crimmigrant other (expected core elements)

Franko (2020), "crimmigrant other" describes the racialized and criminalized figure of migrants who are constructed as threats in migration governance and penal policies — a portmanteau combining "criminal" and "immigrant" to capture how migration control and criminal law intersect to produce a stigmatized subject. *A strong brief answer will* reference Franko explicitly and, where possible, provide one succinct example (e.g., policies that conflate immigration control with crime prevention, or detention practices).

c) Transnational crime control

Could refer to, for example, the following syllabus: Franko 2020; Andreas and Nadelmann 2006; Knepper 2011; Bowling 2020; Wiegratz & Stambøl; Nelken 2019; Raineri and Strazzari 2023; Felbab Brown. At least two lectures, by Stambøl, explained transnational crime control extensively. Transnational and international are often used interchangeably, but with regard to law it means something different, although we should allow students some confusion regarding this point. Transnational crime control refers to cross-border police and judicial cooperation between at least two countries, often through international bodies like UNODC, Interpol, Europol, Frontex and so on. Aimed to fight transnational crimes codified in international conventions like UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (and protocols on migrant smuggling and human trafficking), UN drug conventions. The question does **not** ask for *international* criminal law and justice, which refers to crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

2. Long questions: Choose either A or B

A) Discuss the contribution of a Southern criminology theoretical perspective to explaining how global inequality shapes transnational crime control.

This question is specifically linked to the learning outcome "An understanding of the multiple ways in which global inequality shapes contemporary crime control strategies".

What to look for — expected content and strongest lines of argument. Strong answers will:

1. Include a concise statement of Southern criminology (de-centring Global North epistemologies; emphasis on context, coloniality of knowledge, data politics and power), referencing Carrington et al. 2016.

2. Explain specific mechanisms linking global inequality to transnational crime control. Likely mechanisms include, but are not limited to:
    a. Epistemic inequality and policy transfer: Global North definitions, indicators, and "best practices" travel to Southern contexts without sufficient contextualization (Nelken); policies are often framed by donor/agency priorities rather than local needs.
    b. Funding and governance asymmetries: Agencies and states that define TOC threats (and measure progress) tend to be those that control funding and technical assistance; this shapes priorities and fosters securitised responses that align with donor interests
    c. Data politics and evidence gaps: Lack of reliable local data (Raineri & Strazzari) means Northern actors often rely on partial or biased datasets, which can exaggerate threat narratives or misdiagnose problems, leading to inappropriate control measures.
    d. Capacity & institutional asymmetry: Weaker institutional capacity in many Southern contexts can lead to reliance on external enforcement models that may not fit local governance forms.
    e. Criminalisation and control as effects of inequality: Policies that conflate poverty, migration, informal economies, or marginalized groups with criminality are structured by unequal global norms and security agendas — producing punitive regimes that may reproduce harm rather than address root causes.

Students can draw on concrete syllabus-based cases. For example, Pereda illustrates how North-centric organized crime frameworks mischaracterize Mexican phenomena, resulting in flawed policy responses. Nelken shows how indicators and "best practice" templates obscure local meaning and produce ill-fitting reforms. Raineri & Strazzari: use examples from African drug trafficking research to show how data absences create space for external narratives and interventions.

B) Critically discuss different perspectives on "transnational organized crime" and international policies to counter it.

This question is linked to the course learning outcome "An understanding of and ability to critically assess international crime control and policy and its intellectual foundations". The ability to

critically assess international crime control policy also implies a critical view of the concept of "transnational organized crime," as a concept that can evolve over time and according to the priorities of powerful states. Criticizing the concept of "TOC" is something that was taught in various lectures, at least the first two by Stambøl.

These syllabus critically discuss the concept of TOC most explicitly:

- Varese, F. (2012). How mafias take advantage of globalization: the Russian Mafia in Italy.(Author abstract). British Journal of Criminology, 52(2), 235–253. This text empirically disproves the idea that TOC is a growing global threat spreading to new countries and regions; contending that the category of "mafia" is mainly about territorial and local control and while mafias may have antennas in other places, they do not easily transplant and reproduce their governance in new places.

- Pereda, V., Light, M., & Singh, A.-M. (2022). Why Global North criminology fails to explain organized crime in Mexico. Theoretical criminology, 26(4), 620–640. Question the validity and universality of the Western TOC conception and criminological theory for the Mexican and Global South contexts.

Texts which most explicitly critically explore transnational crime control and responses to "transnational organized crime":

- Wiegratz, J., & Stambøl, E. M. (2023). Afterword: The political economy of countering transnational organized crime in Africa. Trends in organized crime, 26(4), 474–486. Discuss the usefulness and instrumentality of the TOC threat conception in (Western) states' efforts of transnational governance – as the agencies who have the power to define what TOC is (like UNODC, Europol, Frontex and so on) and the level of progress in the fight against it are also the ones who get funded according to how the threat is portrayed and measured.

-Raineri, L., & Strazzari, F. (2023). The data that we do (not) have: studying drug trafficking and organised crime in Africa. Trends in organized crime, 26(4), 358–378. Similar argument to the above – but focusing on drug trafficking, and how data about it are lacking or methodologically flawed, and portrayed in a way so as to preserve the interests of international (law enforcement) agencies.

-Franko 2020, Globalization & Crime

-Andreas and Nadelmann 2006 – on the emergence of global prohibition regimes and international police cooperation

-Bowling 2009 – on international police cooperation and transnational policing

-Müller 2018 – on crime, violence and statehood in Latin America

- Passas 2000 – on the criminogenic effects of global neoliberal capitalism and its production of global anomie

-McCulloch & Pickering 2009 – on the shift towards preemption of risk and "pre-crime" technologies of crime control after 9/11

-Nelken 2019 – on the use of indicators in global crime governance

-Snyder & Duran-Martínez 2009 – on the violence-reducing effects of "state-sponsored protection rackets" – informal deals between public officials and criminal groups

-Felbab-Brown – on the strategic use of government repression of crime so as to reduce the overall level of violence and create "good criminals"

These are the most relevant texts, but other texts can be relevant too. The most important thing is the critical discussion and not taking TOC as a given – so the answer should be critical of mainstream accounts of TOC as a growing global threat for which more police cooperation is the solution – a main learning outcome that has been reiterated in several lecture and in many syllabus texts. The answer should also take a critical look at international crime control policies and governance, like e.g. international crime conventions, international police cooperation, or border security proliferation and externalization, and problematize whether these are indeed ideal responses to the purported problem. A critical analysis means disentangling the categories of transnational organized crime, and could for example mean understanding international policies to counter it in the light of global power relations, Western hegemony, and contestation; or securitization; or the negative effects (control harms) resulting from global crime control; or the self-interest of international crime control agencies to reproduce the global regime. Yet, the students may have other, creative ways to answer this question.