

## **Crime in Online and Offline Spaces (New Course)**

GEG 301-GEG 625- INS 510

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### **I- Introduction**

This course seeks to understand the interplay of Internet technology and criminal activity.

While offline violent crime is usually linked to cities, and more specifically, to definite spaces in cities, future crimes in our online space reach all of us everywhere, even if we don't do anything, simply because we are connected (and interconnected) online.

Technology is a double-edged sword: as much good as it brings, it can also create unprecedented possibilities for crimes — many of which may be new.

Given the freshness of this phenomenon, this course will seek to identify the relevant questions rather than give definitive answers. As such, it will profit from the fact that many of the 'students' may actually be the most knowledgeable in terms of niche aspects of the Internet, its access, and its social media applications. This means that students will have ample opportunity to use their 'wired' minds to be creative and innovative — perhaps sharing aspects of their online experiences to enrich the class and enlighten their fellow class members.

Some of the questions that the course will explore and refine include: Are our current understanding and existing theories of crime and crime prevention approaches, appropriate to deal with the new wave of future crimes linked to technology? Will technology increase crime exponentially, mirroring the famous 'Moore's Law' of advances in computing capability? What type of crimes are we, and might we, end up dealing with as a society? Are our current legal and justice systems in the United States, capable of dealing with these new crimes? Has the Internet revolution already created the path for irreversible crimes?

Most of the topics that we discuss will be approached in an interdisciplinary manner, to stimulate students' broader interests and research skills.

The course seeks students' continuous active participation and creativity. This is essential in this course, given the topic and its topicality. Discussions, projects and presentations will form a core part of the course.