

## CRJ 4321 Organized Crime

CRN: 17488/ Monday and Wednesdays /12:00-1:20 p.m. /EDUC 114

FALL 2022

Professor: Ms. Cheryl Lynn Ordaz

Best way to reach me: [clordaz@utep.edu](mailto:clordaz@utep.edu) please double check that you use correct email

(915) 747-7081

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays (8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.) (10:40 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)  
(3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)\*\* unless in class but sending me a quick email will help

**Course Information:** What this class is about and what we will do

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the origins and modern activity of organized crime groups in the United States and internationally, including an examination of governmental approaches (national and international) that have been employed to address organized crime

### COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To understand organized criminal activity in the United States
- To understand traditional and non-traditional organized crime groups
- To gain experience with common legal frameworks involved in the investigation of organized crime and related offenses
- To understand terminology used by governments, theorists, and professionals in the field of organized crime.
- To understand the competing goals in identifying and investigating organized crime groups and those involved in them
- To demonstrate critical thinking, research and writing skills in crime issues

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

NO book for this class- I will provide PowerPoints in class and extra reading/viewing material on Blackboard.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There are certain requirements that will be necessary for the successful completion of this course. These requirements are mandatory and are explained fully in the syllabus:

EXAM 1= Chapters 1-3 (possible 100 pts) Quizzes= 10 interactive (possible 100 pts)

EXAM 2=Chapters 4-6 (possible 100 pts)

EXAM 3= Chapters 7-9 (possible 100 pts)

FINAL = ALL CHAPTERS (possible 100 pts)

**Grade Distribution:** 500 point scale

A = 500-450

B = 449-400

C = 399-350

D = 349-300

Below 300 points = F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**Course Communication:** How we will stay in contact with each other

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. Use proper email [clordaz@utep.edu](mailto:clordaz@utep.edu). I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and to the instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**Course Policies:** What do you need to do to be successful in the course

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers. Interactive discussions will take place almost every week. Reading chapters before class can be tedious but at least be prepared to go over any articles/videos I may assign

## Exams and Final

Exams will cover chapters mentioned above. You may need to do some exploring online to develop your responses. They will be written but you will have enough time to complete. I will also be going over subject matter/ theme beforehand, so you will know what is required.

Final is comprehensive over all topics discussed and the format will be given to you later.

## Quizzes

You will have 10 interactive quizzes in this class. Be prepared for ANYTHING. What this means is that I may help you, you may get to work with someone, or alone. Just be prepared.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

## DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable. I am at complete discretion to ask for supporting documents if in the event you have an excusable absence. Excusable absences are those that can be supported with verifiable documentation.

## MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

## ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting

your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort BUT before the deadline.

### INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

### ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

### SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Submitting work that was used for another course for this course is cheating. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

### PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

**Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.** If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. **The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)**

## Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

### Technology Resources

- **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

### Academic Resources

- **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **Math Tutoring Center (MARCS):** Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- **History Tutoring Center (HTC):** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.

- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Month	Monday	Wednesday	Goal
August	22	24	
August	29	31	
September	5	7	
September	12	14	
September	19	21	
September	26	28	
October	3	5	
October	10	12	
October	17	19	
October	24	26	
October/November	31	2	



November	7	9	
November	14	16	
November	21	23	Thanksgiving Break for my class
November	28	30	
December	5-9 is finals week		*TBA