

CRIJ 4321 Organized Crime
Summer 2023 ONLINE course (4 weeks)
CRN 36081

Professor: Ms. Cheryl Ordaz

Best way to reach me: clordaz@utep.edu; please make sure that you are using the CORRECT email address- failure to do so results in me not receiving your email.

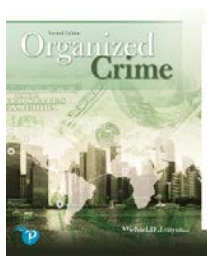
Course Description

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:

- 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 Textbook



Lyman, M.D.(2019). Organized Crime. (7th ed.). Prentice Hall, Inc.

ISBN: 978-0-13-4871326

Blackboard Account

It is mandatory that students activate and use their Blackboard accounts. You will be responsible for checking your class regularly during the semester for posted announcements and handouts. Since all class handouts are only available through Blackboard, it is imperative that each student confirms that his or her Blackboard account is working.

Tips for Successful Use of Blackboard

I recommend if you are using a Mac computer to use Firefox or Google chrome. If you are using PC use Firefox or Google chrome. I also suggest that every time you log onto Blackboard you clear web history and cache. You can also find this information on your course homepage under "tips for students".

Course Requirements

Students will be required to read each chapter, participate in discussion and be ready to discuss the current events in criminal justice as they place in our realm. Students are expected to not only attend course activities, but also devote out-of-class time to reading, checking websites, and using other college resources.

Week 1: 7/9-7/16

Week 1: 7/9-7/16– test 1

Week 2: 7/16-7/23- test 2

Week 2: 7/16-7/23 - Research paper will be due on 7/23 @ 11p.m.-test 3

Week 3: 7/23-7/30-test 4

Week 3: 7/23-7/30 -test 5

Week 4: 7/30- 8/6 – FINAL PowerPoint will be due on 8/7 @ 11 p.m.-test 6

Tests

You will have 6 weekly tests ... Week one there will be no test but for remainder of semester you will have a weekly test every week. The test will open on Sunday at 5:00 a.m. and close on Sunday. Deadline to complete is on Sunday by 11:00 p.m.

The tests will ensure that students are reading and evaluating the class material in a timely fashion. The test will contain a combination of true/false, multiple-choice questions covering the concepts discussed in the textbook.

Make-up Exam/Quiz Policy

Make up exams will only be available for students who have a " valid" reason for having missed the originally scheduled exam date. I will determine if the reason given is "valid". Documentation may be required. Failing to complete exam because you forgot, or you were not aware is not a valid excuse. I have outlined for you when tests are, and it is crucial that you make note of dates.

Weekly Group Discussions and Checklist

There will be 2-group discussion exercise per week (total 7 discussions for the semester) after careful reading and analysis of the assigned texts, you must individually write a response to the assigned question(s). **Discussions will open on Sundays at 5 a.m. and close on Sundays at 11:00 p.m...**

In order to receive any credit for weekly discussions all of the following mentioned below must be met: NO EXCEPTIONS

Is the commentary to **initial question at minimum 100 words**?

Is the commentary to **classmate at minimum 100 word**?

Does the commentary show evidence of having read the material?

Does the commentary show evidence of thinking about the reading beyond just summarizing it? (This may include extension to new circumstances extension to new circumstances/other readings, contradictory evidence, internal (in) consistency, and analyses of assumptions.)

Does the commentary include relevant evidence to support its own argument? **HINT YOU WILL NEED CITATIONS**

The standard practice ("netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation is focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature.

Ex. Author's last name, year, and page number

Ordaz, 2017, pg.6

Discussion questions grades are based on response quality and WORD COUNT and that an in-text citation is provided for each original response. Integrate various main ideas from the book, thoughtfully describe what the concept and/or issues mean to you, evaluate/analyze the reasonableness or quality of ideas, identify hidden assumptions, fallacies, or things take for granted.

Research Paper: 1 total

Select a topic that you find interesting thus far pertaining to Organized Crime.

Once you have selected your topic:

Link that topic to a current event (by doing this you will support how the current event reflects the topic you have chosen). Support your view with evidence (real world facts, examples, case studies) Cite any work that is not your own **APA writing style format is required for this paper. NO OTHER FORMAT WILL BE ACCEPTED**

You will not need to submit an abstract just a title and reference page. You will have four pages (2 of actual research). Use topics pertaining to Organized Crime and use quotes and paraphrasing appropriately, back up your views and opinions with research that supports claims.

Your paper should feature: (1) a clear thesis statement (i.e., “In this paper I will argue...”); (2) key ideas of relevant articles/books/ sources that you find; (3) a clear, well -reasoned argument; (4) conclusion that recaps the main points of your argument.

Grading Rubric- Research Paper

The paper contains a clear, understandable, thesis statement (0-25points)

The author has consulted the articles/books that are most relevant to the question at hand, and explained the central arguments therein with care and precision (0-25points)

The paper contains a clear, well-reasoned, careful argument (0-25 points)

The paper contains adequate referencing using APA format –in text citations and is free of egregious spelling/grammatical errors (0-25 points)

Final Exam:

You will use a movie, docuseries, etc. to explain organized crime within selected movie, docuseries, etc. you may use movie clips to identify terms that relay to organized crime. **Please see final PowerPoint example.**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aFmM37Vt7UUWd-mP64aDInxOYhwQSguKmXRhBYAGIy8/edit?usp=sharing>

You will need five slides:

Each slide should elaborate on a term related to Organized Crime. You will use a scene from the docuseries, movie to explain term.

Grading Distribution

The final course grade will be determined using the following measurements:

Weekly Tests -120
Group Discussions -203
Research Paper- 100
Final PowerPoint- 100

The following will be used to assign course letter grades:

A = 500-450
B = 449-400
C = 399-350
D = 349-300
Below 300 points = F

There will be no curve used in the grading nor will extra work be accepted for credit.

Academic Honesty

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. **Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, the submission for credit of any work or any materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and act designed to give unfair advantage to a student to the attempting to commit such acts.** Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, may result in sanctions ranging from

disciplinary probation to a failing on the work in questions, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others. **** This also includes submitting work that has been previously used for another class.**

Technical Assistance

Please note I am not technical support and any problems with Blackboard or your computer crashing, shutting down, freezing I cannot help you. Contact the following for any technical assistance you may need.

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at helpdesk@utep.edu. You may also contact them toll free: 1-877-382-0491. You may also reach them at 915.747.5257. They are open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m to 9 p.m. Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Students with Disabilities

This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request to students with disabilities.

Any student with a disability that is within the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act must inform their instructor at the beginning of the term of their special needs, including equipment that they feel are essential for completing the requirements of this course. Students with disabilities must self-identify before any accommodations can be made. The instructor will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations when and where appropriate. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or come by room 106 Union East Building.

You also can visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> or the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.