

**The University of Texas at El Paso
Department Criminal Justice
Syllabus**

CRIJ 4321: Organized Crime

CRN: 23627; Spring 2024- 16 weeks F2F
1/16-5/2/24

Ed Bldg. Rm 114 M-W 9-1020 am

INSTRUCTOR

Name: REBECCA PASTRANA, PhD

Office: Prospect Hall. # Office 222B

Office Phone: 915 747-6576, Email: rapastrana@utep.edu

Office Hours: M-W 8-9 & 1030-12 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CRIJ 4321. Organized Crime.

Organized Crime 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.

After completion of the course students will be able to:

CO-1: To understand organized criminal activity in the United States and abroad.

CO-2: To understand traditional and non-traditional organized crime groups.

CO-3: To gain experience with common legal frameworks involved in the investigation of organized crime and related offenses.

CO-4: To understand terminology used by governments, theorists and professionals in the field of organized crime.

CO-5: To understand the competing goals in identifying and investigating organized crime groups and those involved with them.

CO-6: To demonstrate critical thinking, research and writing skills in crime issues.

CO-7: To delve into contemporary research in the area of organized crime.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:





Lyman, M.D. & Potter, G.W. (2019). Organized Crime. (6th Ed.). Prentice Hall, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-13-357173-8.

There is one textbook required for this course. Students should purchase this book and read the relevant sections as assigned. All of the core texts/reading assignments have to be read in their entirety by the end of the class. Weekly assignments are based on this textbook and other reading

as assigned. I expect that you will read the material prior to the class assignment. Note: There will be other materials, which will be extensively utilized for this course and will be made available by the instructor.

***COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal	 Teamwork Skills
Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge	 Critical Thinking Skills
Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts	 Communication Skills
Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts	 Social Responsibility

This course is designed with the UTEP Edge in mind. In our class, you will engage in creative activities during each class that involve critical thinking, applying knowledge to new situations, and solving complex problems. You will leave this course confident in your knowledge of criminology, with enhanced communication skills, leadership and teamwork experience, and a greater global awareness regarding the problem of criminal behavior and how it is responded to by individuals, groups, and the larger society.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Exams (100 points x 2 = 200 points total)

There are two exams for this course. Each exam will cover approximately one-half of the course material. The exams will include a mix of true/false and fill in the blank. They will cover material from the required readings and PowerPoints. Available via Bb

Important notes:

1. The exams are timed. Once you open them, you will have 90 minutes to complete them. They must be completed in one sitting, so please plan accordingly. Please close all browser windows and applications before beginning the exam.
- 2.Exam 1 will open on 1/17@12:00am MST and is due on 3/17@11:59pm MST. This is a short answer exam covers the material from chapters 1-6.
- 3.Exam 2 will open on 3/30 @12:00am MST and is due on 5/02@11:59pm MST. Final exam is 90 questions and comprehensive.

Short Writing Assignments (50 x 4 = 200 points total)

Three short writing assignments will be due during the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 30 points. The goal of these assignments is to ensure you are keeping up with class reading and to give you an opportunity to reflect and respond to course materials. Instruction for these assignments will be posted to Blackboard and should be turned in on Blackboard.

Group Project (100) Due 3/18. In-Class Presentation 3-18-20. Turned in on Bb.

Please refer to the Writing Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

Grade Distribution:

Exams	200 points
Short writing assignments.....	200 points
Project.....	100 points
<hr/> Total.....	500 points

Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	Above 90%	Above 450 points
B	80% – 89.99%	400 – 449 points
C	70% – 79.99%	350 – 399 points
D	60% – 69.99%	300 – 349 points
F	Below 59.99%	Below 299 points

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some 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. 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 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

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail 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.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is mandatory. 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 the completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussions with your peers
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules
- Project

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

***EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. 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

Assignments

- Writing assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM) via Blackboard. **No late work will be accepted.**

NO MAKE-UP WORK

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 backup. 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 Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. I only accept work via Blackboard.

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. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. **Contact the Center for Accommodations and**

Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at 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. 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](#).

***GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The use of generative AI tools such as **Chat GPT is not** permitted in this course.

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

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

***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.
- The Miner Learning Center: Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- UTEP Edge: UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- Student Success Help Desk (SSHD): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- 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.
- UTEP Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.