DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIJ 3360.W01: Organized Crime
Course outline for Fall 2020

Course Number: CRIJ 3360.W01/CRN: 55197
Course Title: Organized Crime
Term: Fall 2020
Class Time: Fully Online
Duration: August 19 – December 7, 2020
Instructor: Dr. Annmarie Barnes
Email: Annmarie.Barnes@tamucc.edu
Telephone: 361-825-5818
Office: Bay Hall 358
Office Hours: Monday 10 am -12.00 noon (online)
              Tuesday 3 pm – 4.00 pm (online)
              Wednesday 11 am – 12.00 noon (online)
              Thursday 3 pm – 4.00 pm (online)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course analyzes and discusses how criminal organizations carry out their illegal activities while laundering money through legal enterprises. It discusses why people belong to organized crime syndicates despite the risks of death and imprisonment. The linkages of poverty, lack of education, social and economic inequalities, and the glorification of capitalist ideology by the phenomenon of organized crime are examined.

SPECIFIC FOCUS OF SECTION 001
This section of the course will foster critical analyses of the theoretical underpinnings of organized criminal behavior, and provide insights into the nature, operations, and impact of organized criminal networks, from both domestic and transnational perspectives. The course engages an analysis of historical and contemporary manifestations of organized crime, as well as the major theoretical explanations for its development and proliferation. While the main focus of the course will consider organized crime in the United States of America, global examples will be used to illustrate the transnational reach of organized criminal networks.

This section of the course will be delivered entirely online, and students will be expected to actively participate in the Discussion Board activities for all classes, as scheduled in the Course Outline. For each online class, the lecture or discussion questions will be posted in a discussion forum on Blackboard, and students will be required to participate in all of the online group discussions. The group discussion sessions posted for each week will remain open for that entire week to allow students to have greater flexibility in participating in the group discussions.
Discussions from a previous week will not be available to students for participation for grading purposes. All assignments for this course will be submitted online.

INSTRUCTOR OBJECTIVES

• The establishment of a learning environment where students are empowered to expand their intellectual horizons, and where each student feels like a valued member of the class
• The achievement of a positive learning experience for all students
• The successful completion of the course for all students who truly desire to learn.

STUDENT STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

The ideas explored in this course are focused on several inter-connecting themes and ideas, many of which will be discussed during the first three weeks of the course. In particular, our discussion of the definitional shift from the activities that constitute organized crime (What) to the typology of various groups that engage in specific activities (Who), will be fundamental to an understanding of the key concepts in this course. In addition, since this course is fully online, students will be required to engage in online group discussions designed to encourage learning through peer exchange. To ensure their success, students should seek to deploy the following strategies:

• Participate in all online classes and group discussions
• Read the assigned course material prior to class participation
• Pay keen attention to the material posted in the online presentations and the discussion boards
• Seek clarification for issues that are not clearly understood
• Complete all assignments on time
• Talk to your Professor about any challenges that may impact your performance in the class
• Review the powerpoint presentations before the exam

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

The course will help students to understand the local and global dimensions of organized crime, highlighting the intersections, continuities and gaps between historical and contemporary forms of organized crime.

Learning Expectations

Throughout the duration of the course, students will be expected to:

• Develop a comparative understanding of various definitions of organized crime
• Understand the relative merits of theoretical explanations for the growth of organized crime
• Critically analyze the significance of ethnicity in the identification of organized crime groups
• Understand the interconnections between the regulation of vice and the rise of organized criminal groups
• Develop knowledge about various forms and types of organized crime
• Gain in-depth knowledge of the business activities of organized criminal groups
• Understand the relationship between the upper world and the under world
• Become familiar with the literature on connections between the illicit drug trade and organized crime.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental concepts and terminologies related to organized crime;
2. Identify and articulate appropriate criminological theories that provide explanatory frameworks for organized criminal activities;
3. Discuss and understand the ethos of organized crime in the USA;
4. Translate the knowledge gleaned from this course into a meaningful basis for future explorations in this area of academic or professional enquiry.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY AND EVALUATION

This third-year course will combine lectures, and student-led presentations in an effort to help students learn through active participation. Students are expected to complete all reading and writing assignments by the dates specified in the Course Outline, and are responsible for all assigned material, whether or not discussed in the online
presentations. Students will be required to read the assigned material prior to participation in each class, since they will be expected to discuss concepts and answer questions that demonstrate their understanding of the material covered.

The group discussion sessions posted for each week will remain open for that entire week (from 8 am on Monday until midnight on Sunday) to allow students to have greater flexibility in participating in the group discussions. **Discussions from a previous week will not be available to students for participation for grading purposes, and missed discussions will not be available for makeup grades. Students will be expected to consistently participate in the online group discussions throughout the semester. All assignments for this course will be submitted online.**

**Evaluation Summary:** Final semester grades will be awarded based on the following distribution:

- **Quizzes (2 @ 10% each)**: 20%
- **Mid semester exam**: 25%
- **Individual Presentation or Journal 1**: 15%
- **Online Discussion**: 20%
- **Final journal**: 20%
- **Total**: 100%

**Quizzes:** Each student will be required to write two quizzes, which will be completed online. Each quiz will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, and will be worth **10%** for a total of **20%** of the final grade. **The quizzes will be due during Week 5 (September 16) and Week 12 (November 4), 2020.**

**Mid Semester exam:** Students will be required to write a midterm test for this course. This will be scheduled during **Week 8 on October 7, 2020** and will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice type questions. The test will account for **25%** of the final grade.

**Seminar Discussion Forum:** Students will be required to participate in all of the online group discussions that are designed to foster learning through peer exchange. Twenty percent (**20%**) of the final grade will be awarded for participation in the Discussion Board activities. To achieve the maximum points, students must participate in each seminar discussion by raising relevant issues, responding to questions and generally contributing to the sharing of knowledge on topics covered. A maximum of 2 points will be awarded for participation in each online session, not including the introductory session which is mandatory for all students. The top ten participation scores will be used to calculate the final participation grade. Students who do not participate in a discussion will not earn participation marks for that session. Students who only respond to the discussion questions and do not respond to the comments posted by other students may earn up to 1 point. Students who answer the discussion questions and respond to at least two other students may earn up to 1.5 points. Students who answer the questions and respond to 3 or more students may earn up to 2 points. Participation grades will be improved by the number of days that students participate in each discussion forum. In other words, students who post their comments and respond to other students over the course of several days, will earn better grades than students who participate on just a single day.

**Individual Presentation (Option to Journal 1):** Each student selecting this option will be required to make a seminar presentation on one of the weekly topics in the course outline. Student presentations will be done using an online discussion forum. Students will be allowed to select their topics in the first two classes and guidelines for the presentation will be discussed and agreed. **Presentations will account for 15% of the final grade for students who choose this option and will be due as scheduled in class.**

**Journal 1 (Option to Presentation):** Students selecting this option will write a journal of 4-5 pages addressing a relevant and problematic issue that incorporates the central themes discussed in this class. A topic for the journal will be provided by the instructor. **The journal 1 assignment will account for 15% of the final grade for students who choose this option and will be due during Week 11 on October 28, 2020.**
Final Exam: Students will be required to write a final test for this course. This will be scheduled during the final examination week on December 3 as an online exam and will be a combination of short answer and multiple-choice type questions. The test will account for 20% of the final grade.

ACCESS, NAVIGATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

Since this is an online class all the content will be accessed online through Blackboard. You must be familiar with the Blackboard program and must know how to navigate it. If you are not, please contact IT help for students at this address: http://it.tamucc.edu/_. To ensure your computer runs properly in Blackboard on either PC or MAC it is recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of this course. Carefully read TAMUCC Blackboard technical requirements here: https://iol.tamucc.edu/bb_resources_students.html.

Instructors are unable to provide technical support so please ensure that you are able to access the course content and contact IT if you need help. If you have any technical problems or need technical support using Blackboard, contact the IT helpdesk. Information is located in the above web address.

Once on Blackboard, students can access course information by clicking on the ‘Course Content’ icon of the course and then opening the weekly content area identified as ‘Week 1’, ‘Week 2’, etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule listed at the end of this syllabus). Each unit/week will contain the material needed to work on the written assignments and quizzes. Students are reminded that presentations on the weekly course material will be available to students on the Monday of that week, and discussion forums for each week will remain open until midnight on Sundays.

An Introduction folder will be provided under the Content tab with additional details on specific assignments and the assigned readings that are not taken from the textbook. Students will also receive regular updates through the Announcement function on Blackboard.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS/INFORMATION

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to be familiar with the TAMUCC’s policy on Academic Honesty, and should review the definitions of academic dishonesty and the judicial procedure associated with such allegations at (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Virtual classroom/professional behavior:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to drop the class.
**Blackboard**

Students are reminded that Blackboard will be utilized for all of the instructional material and assignments for this fully online course. An electronic copy of the syllabus, lecture notes (where available), and additional readings may be found on the course website. Blackboard will also be used to post individual grades on tests and assignments.

**Statement of Civility:**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide students with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. Students are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. Each student is expected to behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Should behavioral disruptions interfere with the business of this online class and the ability of class members to learn, they may be reported to the Office of Student Services as outlined in TAMUCC General Academic Policies and Regulations ([http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/mime/media/7/803/UG+13-14+Full+Catalog+PDF.pdf)).

**Academic Advising:**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class:**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 5, 2020** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Disabilities Accommodations:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity:**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. Students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
HEOA Compliance Statement:
HEOA Compliance statement: The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html.

E-mail Accounts:
The College of Liberal Arts communicates through emails via Blackboard and the Islander’s web service. You can set up your accounts to be forwarded to your personal email account. A TAMUCC email account is the only account our main office uses to initiate contact with students. These emails include information about cancellation of classes or an event, student activities and general information. Your student account also is part of the Blackboard communication system and may be the best way for your instructor to get in touch with you if necessary. Be sure you have your account set up!

Grade Appeal Process:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

Campus Safety Measures:
To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**

- Face Coverings—**Face coverings** (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the **Face Covering policy** and **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** available on the **Provost website**.

- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.

- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the **Student Conduct office** for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

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<td>Week 3 – 08/31-09/04</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Crime</td>
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<td>Week 4 – 09/07-09/11</td>
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<td>Week 8 - 10/05-10/09</td>
<td>Domestic Organized Crime Groups</td>
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<td>Week 9 – 10/12-10/16</td>
<td>Transnational Organized Crime (Part 1)</td>
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Week 10 – 10/19 – 10/23  Transnational Organized Crime (Part 2)


Week 11 – 10/26- 10/30  Terrorism and Organized Crime (Part 1)


Week 12 – 11/02-11/06  Terrorism and Organized Crime (Part 2)


Week 13 – 11/09-11/13  Organized Crime’s Political and Corporate Alliances


Week 14 – 11/16-11/20  Responding to Organized Crime


Week 15 – 11/23-11/27  Exam Review – No Scheduled Readings (Last day of Classes May 6)

Week 16 – 12/01-12/04  Final Exam due on December 3.