CJ 405: Organized Crime

Instructor: Greg Woods, J.D.
Fall 2013
Office Hours: 7:00 -7:30 AM, Tuesdays/Thursdays, and 1:00 - 2:00 PM, Fridays, or by appointment, HSS 232
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Course Description: Criminal Justice 405 provides an overview of organized crime in a comparative historical context, with emphasis on specific traditions, evolution, structure, and relationships with legitimate and illegitimate entities, criminal activities, sources of revenue, and responses by law enforcement in the United States and throughout the world.

Prerequisites: Upper division standing, CJ 300, or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives: Students will understand and apply concepts specific to the following:

- Defining organized crime, factors used to identify organized crime groups, their purpose, locations, and typical activities associated with these groups, including but not limited to racketeering, extortion, bribery, gambling, counterfeiting, loan-sharking, money laundering, prostitution, identity theft, arms trafficking, contract killing, conspiracy, high-tech crime, and the illicit drug trade.
- Introducing specific organized crime groups, past and present, their structure, philosophies, areas of operation, relationships with foreign and domestic terrorist organizations, and significance in the study and application of Criminal Justice.
- Explaining theories as to the motivations of individuals who become involved with organized crime and their contributions to its evolution and perpetuation.
- Comparing and contrasting the historical development and scope of organized crime in urban and rural communities throughout the United States and the ongoing relationship between legitimate business and political entities.
- Assessing responses by legislatures and law enforcement agencies to organized crime, including but not limited to the Kefauver senate committee (1950-51) and McClellan congressional committee (1963) hearings, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (i.e. RICO Act, 1970), the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (i.e. USA PATRIOT Act, 2001), Operation Fast and Furious (2009–11) and the January, 2011, “largest mob roundup in F.B.I. history.”

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Please note: Students who are routinely absent, late, inattentive, or who choose not to contribute to in-class discussion and activities, will be noted and result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

**Grading:**
- Final Examination: 50%
- Weekly Quizzes: 25%
- Weekly Assignments: 25%

**Grading Scale:**
- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F= 59 and below.

**Quizzes & Assignments:** Quizzes will be administered and Written Assignments collected every Thursday as reflected below. Students will be assigned weekly reading and writing assignments and are required to review and define Terms and be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions from the textbook. Written Assignments will consist of a one to two paged single spaced typed analysis, 12-point font, based upon the week’s reading assignment. Detailed instructions will be provided for all written assignments during Tuesday class sessions. **Makeup quizzes will not be given, late assignments will not be accepted, and no assignment may be submitted via email.** Failure to take a quiz at the scheduled time and date will result in a grade of zero for that quiz.

**Dates, Topics of Discussion, Quizzes and Assignments:**

**Week 1**
- **August 27 & 29**
  - Introductions/Course overview; Weekly Quiz and Assignment Formats;
  - No Reading, Assignment, nor Quiz

**Week 2**
- **September 3 & 5**
  - Read Chapter 1: Understanding Organized Crime; In-class exercise (pg 25 Critical Thinking Project); Review Terms (pg 58); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-7 (pg 58); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #1.
Week 3

September 10 & 12
Read Chapter 2: Theories of Organized Criminal Behavior; Review Terms (pg 78); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-7 (pg 78); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #2.

Week 4

September 17 & 19
Read Chapter 3: The Evolution of Organized Crime: Urban Beginnings; Review Terms (pg 116); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-6 (pg 116); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #3.

Week 5

September 24 & 26
Read Chapter 4: The Evolution of Organized Crime: Southern Beginnings; Review Terms (pg 133); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion question 1 (pg 133); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #4.

Week 6

October 1 & 3
Read Chapter 5: The Businesses of Organized Crime; Review Terms (pg 175); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-6 (pg 176); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #5.

Week 7

October 8 & 10
Read Chapter 6: The Illicit Drug Trade; Review Terms (pg 200); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-7 (pg 200); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #6.

Week 8

October 15 & 17
Read Chapter 7: Domestic Organized Crime Groups; Review Terms (pg 239); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-5 (pg 239); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #7.

Week 9

October 22 & 24
Read Chapter 8: Comparative Perspective/International Cartels, etc.; Review Terms (pg 296); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-5 (pg 296); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #8.
Week 10

October 29 & 31
Read Chapter 9: Terrorism as Organized Crime; Review Terms (pg 344); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-5 (pg 344); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #9.

Week 11

November 5 & 7
Read Chapter 10: Organized Crime’s Political & Corporate Alliances; Review Terms (pg 379); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-6 (pg 379); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #10.

Week 12

November 12 & 14
Read Chapter 11: Controlling Organized Crime; In-class activity (pg 402 What is the Best Approach for Attacking Organized Crime?); Review Terms (pg 407); Be prepared to discuss Points of Discussion questions 1-6 (pg 407); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #11.

Week 13

November 19 & 21
Chapter 11
Domestic Terrorism Incidents & Groups; Review Appendix B (pg 412) and Appendix C (pg 416); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #12.

Week 14

November 26 & 28
Thanksgiving Holiday!

Week 15

December 3 & 5
Convergence between international terrorism and transnational organized crime; Counterterrorism; Review Appendix D (pg 419); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #13.

Week 16

December 10 & 12
Responses to Organized Crime: RICO & USA PATRIOT Act of 2001; Review Appendix A (pg 408); Submit Written Assignment; Quiz #14.

Week 17

December 17 & 19
Review for Final Examination; Final thoughts (Tuesday)
Final Examination (Thursday)