

The University of Texas at El Paso Criminal Justice Department

Course Details	
Course Title	Organized Crime
Course Number	CRIJ 4321
Semester	Fall 2017 (October 23, 2017 – December 9, 2017)
Course Delivery	100% On-Line
Instructor	Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.
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Office Phone	915-747-7812

I will respond to all emails and voice mails within 24 hours of receipt. Please keep in mind I live in the Mountain Standard Time (MST) zone.

Course Description and Overview

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.

Learning Management System: All course content is delivered via the UTEP Blackboard course management system. You can view all materials related to this course on Blackboard (except for the textbook).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Distance education demands a considerable amount of self-discipline and motivation. You will enjoy a flexibility to work and study at times that fit your personal schedule; however, you must still meet weekly course deadlines. If you feel you require the structure of a classroom in order to stay engaged, then this class is not for you. Setting up regular times to sit down and focus your attention on the course materials is essential to success. We realize you are balancing many issues in your life and have chosen distance learning as an option to fit your individual circumstances.

Course Objectives

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 Reading

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.

- Lyman, M.D. & Potter, G.W. (2015). *Organized Crime*. (6th ed.). Prentice Hall, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-13-357173-8.

Evaluation Procedures (Requirements)

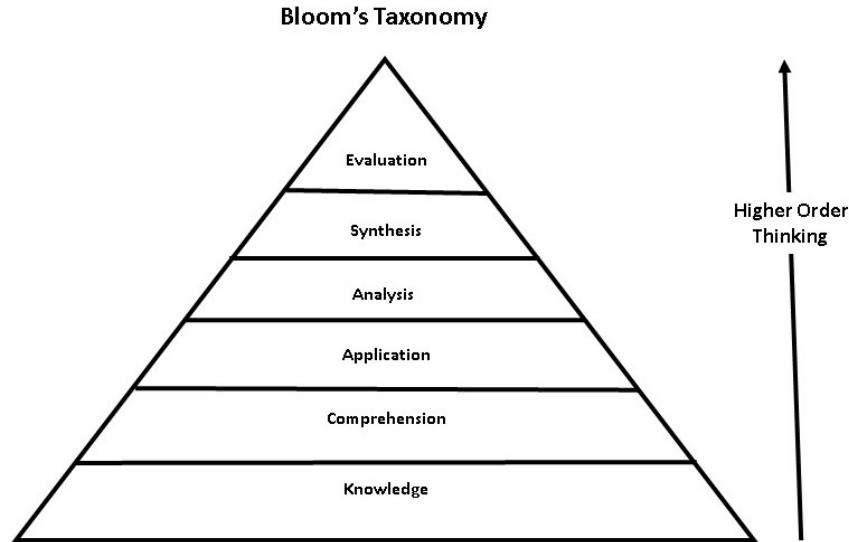
During the course of the semester; students are required to read assigned book chapters/handouts and complete assignments on their own, one research paper, and tests—all in a timely manner.

Discussion Board Assignments: These are a major component of the course delivery method. Each student is required to post original comments related to at least ONE Forum board question and respond to TWO postings made by their classmates each week. **To receive full-credit**, initial forum board posts should range between 250-325 words and responses should generally range between 75-125 words. These numbers are presented as a guideline and not as a restriction to do more. Proper (APA) citation is required.

The Forum board intent is to promote extensive dialog throughout the course and across weekly assignments as appropriate and promote and evaluate undergraduate level written communication. Each original forum board post is worth a maximum of 25 points and comments on classmates' posts (responses) are worth 10 points each (for a total of 20 "response" points) and a total of 45 forum board points per week.

Your participation in the forum must be substantive and timely. It is not sufficient to say you agree or disagree. ***Explain why***. You will get credit for thorough and supported responses to the week's question coupled with substantive interaction with your classmates on their responses to the question of the week. Points are subtracted for failure to interact with substantive comments and for less than thoughtful analysis in your own response. The deadline for your initial discussion forum post is 11:55 PM (MST) **Wednesday** unless otherwise stated. This allows time for responses from your classmates. However, it's preferable to post discussions throughout the week for the best grade results. Your responses to classmates must be done by **Saturday**, 11:55 PM (MST). Late responses are not graded. The discussion board is 31.5% of the class grade.

In order to earn the most points possible for the discussion board assignments I am looking at higher order thinking in both your initial discussion post and your replies to your classmates. The higher order thinking is based on Bloom's Taxonomy. The higher the order the better your score. Below is a visual of Blooms' Taxonomy.



Weekly Assignments: There will be twelve (12) assignments given during the semester. Each assignment will consist of answering two questions posed by the instructor based on the reading assignments. The weekly assignments are due Saturday at 11:55 PM (MST). *Late submissions are not accepted.* The weekly assignments are 24% of the class grade.

Weekly Assignment Grading Criteria

20 Points for each assignment	
5 points	Appropriate sentence structure, grammar, and spelling.
10 points	Meaningful and accurate content that provides a comprehensive response to the question.
2 points	Appropriate APA style
3 points	Meets the minimal word count.

Tests: There are six (6) weekly tests during the semester. The 20 question tests will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true or false questions. The weekly test is due Saturday at 11:55 PM (MST). *Late submissions are not accepted.* The weekly tests are 12% of the class grade.

Research Paper: Students are required to complete a research paper regarding the topic of their choice as long as it is related to Organized Crime. The topic must be approved by the instructor (refer to the class schedule for topic selection deadlines). Remember that **this assignment is a research paper not an opinion paper**, so please ensure that you are trying to answer a research question as opposed to describing how you feel about a topic. If you treat this assignment as an opinion paper the best grade you can earn on it is a “C”.

I highly recommend that you review the APA style information that I have placed in the APA Resource folder. I deduct a significant portion of the grade for not following instructions such as using appropriate APA style.

- The paper must be at least six (6) pages – not including the title and reference pages, in the APA (6th edition) writing style. Use quotes and paraphrasing appropriately, backing up your views and opinions. Please do not submit a paper that is simply full of quotes because you will not receive a very good grade for the assignment. *This class will not utilize an abstract for the paper and using one does NOT count towards your page count.* **First person is not allowed in formal writing and papers containing first person will receive no higher than a “C”.**
- The paper will be typewritten, double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman, and 1” margins. This paper will be supported by at least seven (7) scholarly, academic, or professional references. As this is college level work, the *content, clarity,* and *organization* of your writing are primary factors in scoring. However, your *spelling* and *grammar* count too.
- The paper will be written using the APA writing style (6th Edition) format. “**Wikipedia**” and “**YouTube**” are not acceptable sources. The Internet may be used to access information from scholarly journals, libraries, etc. *Google Scholar* is an excellent research database.
- Papers should be turned in no later than the date indicated on the attached class schedule. The paper will be worth 100 points and papers shall be **turned in no later than the date indicated on the attached class schedule.** Late papers will be accepted; however, **10 points will be deducted for each day late INCLUDING SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS.**
- *Early submissions of reports are accepted and highly encouraged.*

Research Paper Grading Criteria

300 Points	
30 points	Appropriate sentence structure, grammar, and spelling. No errors
200 points	Meaningful and accurate content that provides enough detail for the research paper. Provides a comprehensive response to the research question. The use of quotes does not exceed 5% of your paper.
40 points	Appropriate APA style
30 points	Provides at least seven quoted references to support content detail.

Grading assessments will be weighted in the following way:

Weekly Tests	(6 total)	120	(20 points/per test)
Weekly Assignments	(12 total)	240	(20 points/ per assignment)
Discussion Board		315	(45 points/assignment)
Research Paper prep		025	(topic-5pts, thesis statement-5pts, and Research paper outline-15pts)
<u>Research Paper</u>		<u>300</u>	
Total		1,000	

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Grading Percentage
A	900-1,000	100% - 90%
B	800- 899	80% - 89.9%
C	700-799	70% - 79.9%
D	600-699	60% - 69.9%
F	0-599	0 % - 59.9%

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center: The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC's website (uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC's website to learn more about the services they provide, or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

Policies

Academic Dishonesty Statement

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 person's as one's own. And, 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. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. This course may utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :),

Technical Requirements

The University of Texas at El Paso provided free 24/7 Helpdesk support to academic students and faculty members teaching on-line. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using technology and services, as well as, technical support. For technical assistance, or support, for this course, please refer to **Student Resource** link on upper right side of the Home Page.

Microsoft Office: This means that any uploaded files will have extension formant of either .doc or .docx. If you do not have Microsoft Office, check with your University of Texas at El Paso branch store for the special Microsoft Office package which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Course Schedule Changes and Important Dates

As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will provide the class with plenty of notice prior to the changes.

Census date – October 27, 2017: Students may drop the class before Census date without any penalty reflected in their transcript.

Auto W – November 29, 2017: Last day to withdraw with a “W”.

Disabled Student Statement

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/ or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Course Copyright Notice

Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be furthered retained or disseminated.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Readings	Assignment
1	October 23, 2017 thru October 28, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin the assigned readings for the first weeks of class 2. Browse the content and index sections of the textbook to get familiar with it 3. Review introductions and become familiar with our online course 	Discussion Board #1 Assignments 1 & 2
2	October 29, 2017 thru November 4, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 1 & 2. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #2 Assignments 3 & 4 Test #1
3	November 5, 2017 thru November 11, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 3 & 4. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #3 Assignments 5 & 6 Research Paper Topic Due Test #2
4	November 12, 2017 thru November 18, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 5 & 6. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #4 Assignments 7 & 8 Research Paper Thesis Statement Due Test #3
5	November 19, 2017 thru November 25, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 7 & 8. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #5 Assignments 9 & 10 Research Paper Outline Due Test # 4
6	November 26, 2017 thru December 2, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 9 & 10. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #6 Assignments 11 & 12 Test #5
7	December 3, 2017 Thru December 9, 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read chapters 11 & 12. 2. Review the “terms” listed at the end of each chapter 3. Review the “Points of Discussion” at the end of each chapter. 	Discussion Board #7 Research Paper Due Test #6