



Department of Sociology

SOCIOLOGY 3366F (571): Gangsters and the Mob 2014 Fall Term

DETAILED COURSE SYLLABUS



Course Director: Criminologist Matthew G. Yeager, Ph.D.

Office: FB209

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00 – 3:30; Tues. 10:00 – noon; Wed, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

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Lecture: Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: LH100

Course Synopsis:

The University's course on organized crime is designed to acquaint the student with basic and advanced knowledge concerning the nature and impact of illicit enterprise. At the end of the semester, the student should have acquired suitable skills to identify the sustaining characteristics of criminal organizations and to talk and write intelligently about various policy approaches to combating and studying criminal enterprises.

The subject matter will be taught from a perspective heavily influenced by theory, and the student is expected to approach the issue from a critical point of view – i.e., challenging common assumptions and media imagery. Lectures will be supplemented with several documentaries and films, which are considered important in understanding various cultural scripts which dominate our understanding of traditional gangsters.

Prerequisite(s): [Sociology 2266A/B](#) and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or Criminology.

MARKING SCALES

Marks for achievement in courses are assigned as follows:

90 –100	A+
80-89	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

COURSE REQUIREMENTS - GRADING

The final grade will reflect your performance on three evaluation components. These are:

(1) **Weekly Memos (20 points)**

During the class, you will write five (5), one-page memos on pre-selected topics – usually news clippings or short articles. You are to critique these pieces by bringing in some criminological theory. Each memo must be handed in personally, and is worth up to four (4) points. These memos will form the basis for a lively seminar discussion following a short lecture each week.

(2) **Midterm (35 points)**

There will be an in-class, written midterm reflecting both your readings and lectures to this mid-point of the class. The questions will be narrative in style, not multiple choice, and will require you to apply your knowledge gained in class to one or more fact situations.

(3) **Final Course Paper (45 points)**

A paper topic will be posted on Web OWL before the midterm. You will be expected to write a 10-page research paper on the topic using your lectures and readings

in this course. You may also use other outside sources, but must cite those sources using ASA or APA format. Please do not submit your paper via E-mail attachment.

Readings: (Available at UWO Bookstore)

Mark Haller (2013) *Illegal Enterprise: the work of Historian Mark Haller* (University Press of America).

James Finckenauer (2007) *Mafia and Organized Crime: A Beginner's Guide* (One World Press)

John Gibler (2011) *To Die in Mexico: Dispatches from Inside the Drug War* (San Francisco: City Lights Books).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Sept. 10, 2014: Introduction and overview of the course. Contemporary Perspectives on Illicit Enterprise. Announcements.

Sept. 17, 2014: Piracy – early organized crime

Readings: Haller, Chap 3; Finckenauer, Chap. 1; Gibler, pp. 1-25.

Sept. 24, 2014: Loan sharking and gambling

Readings: Haller, Chaps 8 & 9; Finckenauer, Chap. 5

Oct. 1, 2014: Labour racketeering

Readings: Gibler, pp. 26-90;

Oct. 8, 2014: Globalization of Illicit Enterprise

Readings: Finckenauer, Chap. 4;

Oct. 15, 2014 ;. Theoretical Approaches to Organized Crime

Readings: Haller, Chap.11; Finckenauer, Chap. 3; Gibler, pp.197-212.

Midterm Review

Oct. 22, 2014: *IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM*****

Oct. 29, 2014: Historical Roots of Illicit Enterprise

Readings: Finckenauer, Chap. 2; Gibler, pp.90-135; Haller, Chap. 2.

Nov. 5, 2014: Globalization of Illicit Enterprise

Readings: Gibler, pp. 137-147.

Nov. 12, 2014: The Criminal as Businessman: Organized Crime and Legitimate Enterprise. *Readings:* Gibler, pp. 148-164; Haller, chap. 10.

Nov. 19, 2014: Outlaw Biker Gangs

Readings: Gibler, pp. 165-175;

Nov. 26, 2014: The Sicilian Mafia

Readings: Gibler, pp. 176-196; Haller, chap. 4.

Dec. 3, 2014: Politics and Gangsters
Readings: Finckenauer, Chap. 7;

***Dec. 5, 2014:** Your research paper is due today, in my office, by 12:00 noon.

SPECIAL NOTES

Students with special needs may apply through the Counseling and Student Development Office to obtain special accommodations with their studies and tests. **Please note that it is the student's responsibility to make these arrangements with sufficient time prior to the first test that accommodations can be arranged.**

Medical and non-medical absences: On medical absences, please refer to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Generally, documentation will be required, and must be submitted both to the Academic Dean's Office and this instructor. As to non-medical absences, they will generally be denied except for dire emergencies and family funerals, which must be documented.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as, footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web Site:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

Policy on Laptops in Class: If you own a laptop, it can be a very effective tool for taking notes in class. Unfortunately, past experience suggests that some students who bring laptops to class use them to access the Internet. This can prove very distracting to the students around them. Accordingly, using your Laptop to access the Internet will be considered disruptive behavior and a violation under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be expelled from class lecture.

Course Withdrawal: The Last Day to withdraw from Fall Term Courses is **Nov. 5, 2014**.

Deferred assignments/grades: Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Academic Dean will be honored.

Retain Copies of Work Submitted: It is crucial that you retain a hard copy of all assignments/take home tests submitted in every course! Remember also to back-up your work on disk/CD/computer!

For Religious Observance

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory exam.

A NOTE ABOUT THE COURSE OUTLINE

Please note that this course outline is subject to revision. Throughout the course, circumstances may arise that will alter the ordering of topics and the pace at which we move through the material. Video clips may also be used as part of the course material. It is your responsibility to do the suggested readings and to take lecture notes. If you are unable to attend class, please consult with your colleagues in order to acquire lecture material or other course content that you may have missed. If you are absent from class for an extended period of time, please inform your course director as soon as possible.

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET FOR ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized Crime General

- The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (general)
<http://www.csis.org/goc/>
- Organized Crime Registry (general)
<http://www.members.tripod.com/~orgcrime/>
- Organized Crime (general)
<http://organizedcrime.about.com/newsissues/organizedcrime/mbody.htm>
- Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption (general)
<http://www.yorku.ca/nathanson/>
- Organized Crime (general)
<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/nwcourses/martin/deviance/organized/>
- National Criminal Justice Service (general)
<http://virlib.ncjrs.org/International.asp>
- Criminal Justice Resources: Organized Crime (general)
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/crimjust/orgcrime.htm>
- Transnational Crime and Corruption Centre (general)
<http://www.american.edu/transcrime/ocwatch/>
- Search International (US and Russian Mafia)
<http://www.search-international.com/>
- Transnational Institute (Organized Crime, Corruption, Drug War)
<http://www.tni.org/>
- ERRI Counter-Terrorism Archive
<http://www.emergency.com/cntrterr.htm>
- United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
http://www.odccp.org/crime_prevention.html
- United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network
<http://www.uncjin.org/>
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
<http://www.undcp.org/palermo/convmain.html>
- Italian / European Organized Crime
<http://www.transcrime.unitn.it>
- US-American and German Organized Crime
<http://people.freenet.de/kvlampe/>
- US-Mafia
<http://www.ipsn.org/themob.html>
- more US-Mafia
<http://www.crimelibrary.com/>

Canada

- Toronto Gangs and Organized Crime Groups
<http://members.nbc.com/koromantee/mdamain.html>
- Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia
<http://www.ocabc.org/>

Latin American Organized Crime

- Las Americas Crime Review
<http://www.pscusa.com/lacr/lacr.html>
- Washington Office on Latin America
<http://www.wola.org/>
- Andean Commission of Jurists (in Spanish, some English)
<http://www.cajpe.org.pe/5.htm>
- Resource Centre of the Americas
<http://www.americas.org/>
- Colombia Report
<http://www.colombiareport.org/>
- Amnesty International: Colombia
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/colombia/>
- Human Rights Watch: Colombia
<http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/colombia/>

Drug War

- Drug War Links
<http://www.csdp.org/links.htm>
- Pacific Drug Policy Institute
<http://www.pdpi.org/>
- National Drug Strategy Network
<http://www.ndsn.org/topics.html>
- Drug Reform Coordination Network
<http://www.drcnet.org/index.html>
- Transnational Institute
<http://www.tni.org/drugs/folder1/contents.htm>

Soviet and Post-Soviet Organized Crime

- Radio Free Europe
<http://www.rferl.org/>
- East European Constitutional Review
<http://www.law.nyu.edu/eecr/index.html>
- Russian Mafia
<http://www.afpc.org/issues/crimrev.htm>

Corruption

- Transparency International
<http://www.transparency.de/>

Drugs

- Drug Links
<http://www.frw.uva.nl/cedro/links/Welcome.html>
- Recreational Drugs Information
<http://www.a1b2c3.com/drugs/index.htm>

Other

- Privacy International
<http://www.privacyinternational.org/>

Law Enforcement

- Interpol
<http://www.interpol.int/>
- Europol
<http://www.europol.eu.int/>
- RCMP
http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/index_e.htm
- Criminal Intelligence Services of Canada (CSIS)
<http://www.cisc.gc.ca/index.htm>
- National Crime Intelligence Service (Britain)
<http://www.ncis.co.uk/>
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/index.htm>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
<http://www.fbi.gov/>
- German Federal Police (in German)
<http://www.bka.de/>
- Japanese Police
http://www.npa.go.jp/police_e.htm

Varese, Federico [ed.] (2010) **Organized Crime: Critical Concepts in Criminology** (New York: Routledge, 4 volumes). This collection is housed at King's Cardinal Carter Library.