BOR/CRIJ 6306 Adv. Studies in International Drug Trafficking

Spring “A” 2019, Online, 8-weeks

Instructor:
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BOR 6306 Advanced Studies in International Drug Trafficking (3-0). The international trafficking of illegal narcotics and other pharmaceuticals has been a global problem for over a century. From the Opium Wars of the 1800s to the current battles among drug cartels in Mexico, this course offers an in-depth analysis of the epidemic of drug abuse and its association with crime. Using open source intelligence, students evaluate the impact of current drug interdiction efforts by federal agencies. Students conduct online research and statistical analysis to develop viable programs and policies to reduce the current demand for illegal substances worldwide. They then argue in support of their positions to convince the remainder of the class of their program’s viability. (Credit may not be earned for both this BOR course and Criminal Justice 6306.)

Administration:

There are no prerequisite courses for this course; however, it is expected that the student possess graduate student status, as the readings and the complexity of the drug trafficking problem requires intense study and attention.

The course grade is determined by an assessment of discussion question posts and student replies. Two research papers are required.

Late papers will not be accepted unless prior notification of the Instructor is made.

This course beings on 01-14-19 and ends on 03-08-19.

This class may be added until 01-17-19

The course drop date is by 02-15-19.

Reading Materials:

At the present time, a comprehensive textbook on the global and international drug trafficking problems does not exist. Therefore, the reading materials for this course will include current and historical publications released by the following organizations:

1. Executive Office of the President of the U.S., National Drug Strategy
5. Select publications from the Congressional Research Service, think tanks, and individual authors who are designated as experts within this field

No textbooks are required for this course.

Course Objectives:

Objective One: To become familiar with the depth and breadth of the global drug trafficking problems through study and critical analysis of governmental reports for specific world regions as evidenced within recently published reports of agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of State, and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

Objective Two: To evaluate the scope of the drug trafficking problems in specific regions and countries by identifying contributing factors and determining efficacy of anti-drug trafficking measures such as legislation and prevention strategies

Objective Three: Objective Three: To identify drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and foreign terrorist organizations that contribute to international drug trafficking

Objective Four: To identify drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and foreign terrorist organizations that contribute to international drug trafficking
Learning Outcomes:

By semester's end, each student will have accomplished the following learning outcomes for this course:

• Understand the problems of international drug trafficking through analysis of geographic regions and continents along with the extent to which social, political, economic, and environmental factors and dynamics interact to enable its proliferation
• Identify and articulate drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and foreign terrorist organizations that are involved with international drug trafficking, particularly in Latin America
• Become familiar with international laws and policies as well as their development throughout history along with the impetus for international treaties and pacts to address global issues such as public health, crime, violations of human rights, and environmental effects

Students have a right to know what their professors expect from them in terms of their course instruction and how their learning will be evaluated. This course establishes several learning outcomes that are measured objectively and subjectively. Upon completion of the course, each student should successfully complete the following:

• Understand and discuss the scope of the global drug trafficking problem by region and type of narcotic being trafficked Identify Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) Transnational Organized Crime groups (TOCs), and Foreign Threat Organizations (FTOs) that are actively engaged in drug trafficking
• Comprehend the characteristics and health problems of dangerous drugs, such as opiates, heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, cannabis, and synthetic combinations
• Learn the effect and interaction of drug trafficking with crime, such as human and weapons trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism
• Obtain research publication on the current trafficking groups by region and the type of drug trafficked
• Synthesize and apply the drug control strategies and legislation with effective programs as they relate to the U.S. threats

Methods of Assessing the Outcomes:

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments and active participation in the cohort discussions established through discussion board questions each week.

A mid-term writing assignment and a final project are assigned throughout the semester to measure the student's ability to critically analyze the causes and consequences of international drug trafficking. Specific knowledge on topics of importance to future courses in the Border and Homeland Security program as well as the Criminal Justice program is measured through the use of these comprehensive written assignments. To measure the student's comprehensive understanding of the materials presented in this course, each writing assignment is meant to be comprehensive, inclusive of previous readings and class discussions.

Altogether, the assignments in this course are meant to adequately prepare Homeland Security and Criminal Justice professionals, practitioners, researchers, and students to effectively perform in their jobs and assignments. A major competency that is addressed is the ability to think critically, research information intelligently and process it appropriately, produce accurate briefings and reports, and to manage sometimes voluminous and complex information. Effective writing and critical thinking skills are necessary for a graduating student to succeed in the workplace and in future employment opportunities, transfers, and promotions.

Required readings are primarily taken from current government publications. Additional and optional readings will add depth and breadth to the assigned readings and to the student led effort to submit well-researched papers, with the aid of the ASU ONLINE LIBRARY scholarly journal databases.

This semester will cover:

• A history and context of international drug trafficking
• The Opium Wars of Central Asia
• East and Southeast Asia
• The European Union
• Africa
• Mexico and Latin American Countries
• Control Strategies and Legislation
• Trends and Future Implications

Unless otherwise specified in a specific lesson or module, all reading assignments refer to the chapters and pages of these textbooks and assigned published articles. Other readings or media may be assigned by the instructor as part of the course
completion. Additional and optional readings will serve to address interests developed by the student for his/her academic advancement.

**Grading:**

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #1 (Midterm)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignment #2 (Final)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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This course employs two written assignments. The written assignments account for 60% of the course grade. The written assignments are relevant to the topics and reading assignments preceding them. Each written assignment must be completed within the specified time period (between two and four weeks). Each written assignment must comply with the CMS or APA elements of style: double spaced, 1" margins, and with appropriate grammar and spelling and writing mechanics. Citations must be provided and a Reference page is required. A minimum of three (3) references must be included, and font must be size 12, New Times Roman or Courier. The papers must be submitted electronically in Word or pdf format only.

**Letter Grades:**

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

- **A** = 90 – 100%
- **B** = 80 – 89%
- **C** = 70 – 79%
- **F** = 59% and below.

**Assignment Rubrics: Available on the left-side menu in the course.**

**General Guidelines for Each Assignment:**

- Be sure that your student ID is on each assignment.
- Copy and paste each question into your work and immediately follow the question with your answer
- Answer all questions per assignment
- Your answers for the questions are expected to fill two or more pages
- Answers must be typed, in 12 point font, and submitted as a WORD or PDF file
- Save your work to your computer!

**How to Submit Your Assignment:**

- From within Blackboard, go to the assignment tab and open the specific assignment.
- Under section 2. Assignment Materials, next to Attach File, click on "Browse for Local File" (You should have already saved your assignment in the directory).
- Select the file you want to submit.
- In the "Name of link to file", type the assignment number and your name (e.g., Assignment 1 Borris Lee).
- Then click the submission button to send me your assignment.

**Warning:**

Any PLAGIARISM will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

**Lessons:**

This is an eight (8) week graduate level course; therefore, it will be necessary for each student to keep up with the reading assignments. This will enable each student to submit and engage in an informed and intelligent contribution to the discussion boards and to stimulate an application, synthesis, and debate of the study material as a means to improve learning and illustrate a
highly interactive environment. There are assigned readings, optional and additional readings and videos. Each student will be provided advance notice as to the reading assignments so that there is sufficient time for understanding the study material.

Lesson One/Week 1: Introduction and Context of the World's Illicit Drug Problems

• Understand the current global problems with the illicit drug market and its effect on a nation's social, political, and economic structure
• Comprehend the depth and breadth of drug trafficking as a global problem by a review of the drug market by region and countries of the world
• Obtain an overview of the world's drug trafficking problems by studying the drug market for continents such as Asia, Europe, Africa, South and Central America, and the U.S.
• Articulate the definitions and differences between drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and foreign terrorist organizations.

Lesson Two/Week 2: Afghanistan, Central Asia and Russia: The Opium Wars

• Understand the opium problem as one of the world's longest standing illicit drug, its market, transportation, and consumption through a review of history and the evolution of global legislation primarily as documented by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
• Trace the origin, transportation, and destination of opium and its byproducts throughout the world
• Articulate and discuss the effect of opium cultivation on the regions known as Central Asia and northward to Russia
• Identify crime groups and terrorist organizations that traffic in illicit drugs as well as their purpose for such activities

For country locations and regions used within this course, please see the CIA website. As we begin this study, we see Afghanistan is considered a country in the SE Asian region of the world: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html

Mid-Term Project will be assigned.

Lesson Three/Week 3: East and Southeast Asia

• To identify the types of drugs subject to trafficking within East and Southeast Asian countries, such as Cambodia, Thailand, China, Japan, and others
• To understand the illicit drug market economy and the types of organizations that engage in criminal enterprise and organized crime in furtherance of the drug trade
• To discuss the transportation routes, countries of origin, transit, and destination
• To articulate parts of the political, governmental, social, and economic systems that contribute to the proliferation of drug trafficking within various East and Southeast Asian countries

Lesson Four/Week 4: Trafficking in Countries of the European Union

• To identify the types of drugs subject to trafficking within European Union countries, such as France, Germany, Britain, and others
• To understand the illicit drug market economy and the types of organizations that engage in criminal enterprise and organized crime in furtherance of the drug trade
• To discuss the transportation routes, countries of origin, transit, and destination
• To articulate parts of the political, governmental, social, and economic systems that contribute to the proliferation of drug trafficking within countries of the European Union

Mid-term Paper Due: by Midnight on 02-10-19

Lesson Five/Week 5: Africa

• To identify the types of drugs subject to trafficking within African countries, such as West and Southern African countries (Ivory Coast, Ghana, S. Africa, and others
• To understand the illicit drug market economy and the types of organizations that engage in criminal enterprise and organized crime in furtherance of the drug trade
• To discuss the transportation routes, countries of origin, transit, and destination
• To articulate parts of the political, governmental, social, and economic systems that contribute to the proliferation of drug trafficking within various African countries

Final Project will be assigned.

Lesson Six/Week 6: Mexico and Central American Drug Trafficking Organizations

• To identify the types of drugs subject to trafficking within Latin American countries, such as Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America
• To understand the illicit drug market economy and the types of organizations that engage in criminal enterprise and organized crime in furtherance of the drug trade
• To discuss the transportation routes, countries of origin, transit, and destination
• To articulate parts of the political, governmental, social, and economic systems that contribute to the proliferation of drug trafficking within Latin American countries

**Lesson Seven/Week 7: Control Strategies and Legislation**

• To identify the historical landmark legislation and timelines leading to worldwide shifts in the drug control philosophy
• Identify and discuss major or significant U.S. and international legislation to control the drug market from production to distribution and possession and use
• Discuss the efforts of law enforcement agencies within the US. And abroad, along with military efforts to stop production, distribution, and trafficking of illicit drugs
• Review the U.S. Department of State 2012 International Narcotics Control Strategy report to understand the law enforcement function with respect to international drug trafficking

**Lesson Eight/Week 8: Trends and Future Implications**

• Comprehend and articulate the threats posed by international drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and foreign terrorist organizations on the U.S. and in the European Union
• Gauge the potential effect of organized legislative efforts and preventative strategies involving mutual pacts, aid agreements, and nation-building
• Determine the appropriate future strategies and legislation needed to more effectively control the international drug trafficking problems

**Final Project Due by Midnight on 03-03-19**

**Academic Integrity**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

**Accommodations for Disability**
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

**Student absence for religious holidays**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Mid-term Paper:**

Given your study of the opium problems in Central and Asian countries as well as Russia and parts of the Middle East, what type of drug control strategy is necessary to better control the trafficking of drugs within this region of the world? Be specific as to social, political, economic, environmental, or multi-jurisdictional partnerships. Defend your position through illustrations, case studies, statistics, charts, graphs, figures, etc. Include a relevant statute or two, along with at least five references and citations. Please limit your papers to between seven and eight pages, double spaced, per APA or CMS manuscript styles.

The paper is due no later than Midnight on 02-10-19.

OR

Optional Mid-term Paper:
Explain international drug trafficking from the perspectives of drugs as part of a market economy, a political system, or part of a nation’s or a society’s culture. Illustrate how drug trafficking has grown despite the efforts of a global community to control illicit drug trafficking.

OR

Third Option:
There has been substantial U.S. effort in Afghanistan to control the production and trafficking of opium. Describe those efforts briefly and identify the reasons why this region of the world appears to be resilient to any type of intervention. What role do the various factions and warring families have on the international control of Afghanistan illicit drug production?

Final Project:

Please answer FOUR (4) of the following 7 “short answer” questions. Please limit your response to each question to no more than 1.5 pages, 250-300 words, double-spaced, per APA or CMS manuscript style. Each answer must contain at least three references, properly cited.

The paper is due no later than Midnight on 03-03-19.

1. Which transnational organized crime group or drug trafficking group is the greatest threat to U.S. security and interests? Why? Support your position with evidence, illustrations, and at least three scholarly and government publications.

2. Is there a firm link between terrorism and drug trafficking? Is Narco-terrorism adequately controlled? Provide evidence and an illustration for your position. At least three recent, scholarly publications and/or government documents are needed for your works cited.

3. Is there a “global reach” of international drug trafficking? Is there a connection between drug trafficking and terrorism? If so, please describe at least one organization that is known or believed to be involved in international drug trafficking. Please include at least three scholarly resources in your response.

4. Describe the extent of international collaboration between multiple jurisdictions or nations (states) that is needed to effectively combat international drug trafficking. Please name one U.S. initiated effort and briefly list its structure and objectives.

5. Why are U.S. and international efforts largely ineffective in controlling or dismantling drug trafficking organizations? What tactics, strategies and/or initiatives must an effective collaboration include to be more effective? Is any country in the world using such a strategy?

6. What do you see as future trends with international drug trafficking? What will be the effect of continued strategies that are not dismantling or disrupting the operations of international drug trafficking organizations?

7. Why has the U.S. led war on drugs failed? Support your answer with case studies and illustrations. Conclude by identifying tactics, strategies, policies, or initiatives that may be more effective at dismantling criminal drug trafficking organizations.

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