International Drug Trafficking

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description/Overview

This course is designed to begin with an overview of the world's drug trafficking problem from the perspective of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime as well as the United States Department of Defense and Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration. The drug trafficking problem is a preferred economic business practice of many organizations, including transnational organized crime groups and some terrorist organizations. The modules created for use in this course are designed to progress from the worldview of drug trafficking to a more localized perspective that encompasses the full spectrum of social, political, and economic issues affecting the United States. Finally, the unparalleled violence and threat emanating from Mexico's drug trafficking organizations will be studied, and future trends and implications will top off the course.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

*Drugs and Drug Policy: The Control of Consciousness Alteration*
Author: Clayton J. Mosher and Scott Akins
Publisher: Sage Publications, Inc.
Year: 2007
ISBN: 0-7619-3006-X or 978-0-7619-3006-S (cloth)
0-7619-3007-8 or 978-0-76193007-5 (paperback)

In addition, the following e-book will be provided by the professor:

Author: United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (eBook provided by the professor)
Publisher: United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
Year: 2011
ISBN: 978-92-1-148262-1
United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.10

Other readings are assigned each week and are provided to you in PDF or WORD format, or will link you directly to the web site of interest.

Additionally, where possible, videos are utilized to enhance student learning.
Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Technical skills required for this course

As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course, however your computer must meet certain minimum requirements to operate Blackboard.

Time spent on this course

Students can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week to complete all the readings and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as the student will require to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

Objectives and Outcomes

Course Objectives

Objectives focus on content and skills that are important within the course. Objectives can be thought of as inputs into the course.

Objective One: To become familiar with definitions, terms and concepts related to drugs from an international and U.S. perspective

Objective Two: To learn about the scope, extent, and impact of the drug trafficking problem from an international and U.S. perspective

Objective Three: To understand the consumption, production, and types of narcotics trafficked across the globe, focusing on major international trafficking routes

Objective Four: To comprehend the full spectrum of impact that drugs have on individuals, groups, and regions, from addiction to participation in operations of transnational organized crime groups or terrorist organizations

Objective Five: To illustrate the relationships between drug trafficking organizations and crimes such as money laundering, kidnapping, extortion, human trafficking, and trafficking in weapons

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand the drug trade and the characteristics and effects of narcotics and drugs produced throughout the world along with their consumption
2. Become thoroughly familiar with the scope, impact, and extent to which drug trafficking is influencing local, state, and international organizations and countries
3. Comprehend the extent to which the drug trafficking organizations have pervaded the social, political, economic, and environmental landscape of local communities, larger regions, and even entire countries
4. Illustrate the effect of drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime groups, and others on a nation's health and security through an understanding of related crimes, such as kidnapping, human and weapon trafficking, extortion, and other crimes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through a combination of written assignments, on-line discussions, and active participation in the cohort assignment for this course.

Through the writing assignments, the student is expected to show an understanding of the depth and breadth of disaster planning and emergency management problem across the U.S. and throughout the globe, particularly stating how the planning and response efforts affect a community's economic, social, and political health.

A major competency identified by Homeland Security professionals is the ability to produce technical reports and briefings, to communicate coherently a wide variety of thoughts to a diverse audience that may not be as knowledgeable of a subject as the person conducting the briefing or writing the report. To address this concern, throughout the Border Security and Criminal Justice programs students are assigned writing projects of various lengths and complexities. Since the phenomenon of disaster preparedness and emergency management crosses disciplines, students of other social sciences, such as sociology, psychology, nursing, and social work, are active participants. Effective writing and critical thinking skills are necessary for a graduating student to succeed in the workplace and future employment.

Several writing exercises are assigned throughout the semester to measure the student's ability to critically analyze the cases and after action reports. Specific knowledge on topics of importance to future courses in the Border Security program as well as the Criminal Justice program is measured through the use of comprehensive exams. 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.

**Grading Policies**

This course employs writing assignments and weekly discussions to measure student learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013 (week 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013 (week 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 (week 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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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 %
D = 60 - 69 %
F = 59 % and below.

Writing Guidelines

Each writing assignment deals with the topic under discussion. These writing assignments cumulatively account for 73% of the student's grade. Writing assignments are expected to be about 1500 - 2000 words.

Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to this link: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/. Should you wish to use CHICAGO style that will be acceptable. The Chicago Style guide can be found at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org. Papers should have 1-inch margins all around. You are expected to use a standardized font - preferably Times New Roman, 12 point. Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list and cover page with every assignment.

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a WORD or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then copy the text you have written directly into the assignment section of Blackboard during the appropriate week. Do NOT submit writing assignments in Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, or some e-mail format. They will not be accepted.

Rubrics

Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using a standardized rubric. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments. There are two rubrics. Click the link to download the PDF document:

Discussion Rubric
Writing Assignment Rubric

Final Exam

This is an online graduate course and does not utilize a final exam as part of evaluating student learning. In lieu of a final exam, students are expected to complete their final assignment and an evaluation of the course by Monday, Dec. 1, 2013.
Course Organization:

Lesson 1: REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Lesson 2: DANGEROUS DRUGS: OPIUM/HEROIN, COCAINE

Lesson 3: AMPHETAMINE TYPE STIMULANTS AND CANNABIS
Written Assignment 1 Due

Lesson 4: DANGEROUS DRUGS AND NARCOTICS: EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUAL

Lesson 5: DRUG PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
Written Assignment 2 Due

Lesson 6: DRUG POLICIES AND LEGISLATION: INTERNATIONAL AND U.S.
THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE STRATEGY

Lesson 7: TRANSNATIONAL DRUG ORGANIZATIONS

Lesson 8: TRENDS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS CONCLUSION
Written Assignment 3 Due

Administration

Communication

Students are expected to participate regularly through the course discussion forum. Students may receive occasional emails from the course instructor and are expected to respond promptly. Asynchronous communication (i.e. face-to-face or “real-time” communication is not required for this course, however your professor is available for phone conversation, chat sessions, or video conferencing via Blackboard Collaborate during the published office hours, or during other times with prior arrangement.

Attendance

This is an online course and attendance is not taken. However, failure to participate in the discussion board, to communicate or respond to e-mails from the professor, is an indication something is wrong. Therefore, we have made both a significant component of the course grade as an enticement to keep you engaged in the learning process. Failure to participate or communicate on the part of a student will result in an appropriate reduction of your grade and possibly in your failure of this course.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted. If your assignments are not submitted by the posted deadline, you will receive a zero for that assignment.
Incompletes

The University policy on grades of "Incomplete" is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes a "F". Grades of "Incomplete" will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an "Incomplete" will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an "Incomplete" is entirely up to the professor's personal judgment.

Add/Drop dates

Students may add this course up to Friday of the first week of class (October 25, 2013).

Students may drop this course up to the October 31, 2013 as specified by the University Administration.

University Policies

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

The Student Life Office 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 contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

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.