Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice
COURSE CRIJ #4381
Gangs: Causes and Consequences
Spring 2021

Professor: Jun Wu, Ph.D.  Credit Hours: 3
Office: Vincent 231  Email: jun.wu@angelo.edu

Textbook

Required:
Curry, G. David, Scott H. Decker, and David C. Pyrooz. 2014.
*Confronting Gangs: Crime and community* (3rd edition), New York:
Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199891917

Recommended:
Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System*. New York:
Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199328505

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to gangs. The substantive focus
of this course is the causes and consequences of, and responses to, gang behaviors and processes.
Students will be exposed to a range of issues related to gangs.
By the end of the semester, students will:

- Gain factual knowledge on concepts, trends, and the myths and realities of gangs;
- Learn to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions;
- Be able to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view related to the processes and behaviors of gangs, gang members, and communities;
- Recognize the public policy implications surrounding the existence and responses to gangs

**Course Requirement and Grading**

**Book and Movie Reviews.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading scale:</th>
<th>A: 100-90%</th>
<th>90 – 100 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B: 89-80%</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: 79-70%</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: 69-60%</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: &lt;60%</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Book and Movie Reviews**

There will be 2 written assignment in this class – one book review and one movie review. For each review, you should write 3-5 pages review based on what you have learned from this class. Use about 1-2 pages to introduce what the book or movie talks about and spend the rest of the page(s) discussing its link to the class material. APA format is required: 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margin, but you do not need to have a title page or running head. The movie review is due on Apr. 9. The book review is due on May. 7. All submission will be on the Blackboard before midnight (11:59 pm).

For movie review, you can choose one movie that is highly related to street or prison gangs, not necessarily limited to American gangs (50 pts). Some examples are listed below:
- American Gangster (2007)
- Godfather (1972)

For book review, you can choose one book that talks about street or prison gangs (50 pts). Some examples are listed below:
- Gang Leader for a Day, by Sudhir Venkatesh
- Who You Claim, by Robert Garot
- Real Gangster, by Timothy Lauger

**Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty of any kind (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) will not be tolerated. Students found to have plagiarized or cheated will receive a failing grade for the course. If a cell phone is visible during an exam, the student will receive a zero for that test. There will also be disciplinary
actions at the university level. Further information concerning academic honesty can be found at: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code.

**Disabled Student Policy and Services for Disabled Students**

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 Observance of Religious Holy Days**

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

**Email Correspondence**

Email is the best way to reach your instructor after class. I will respond you within 24 hours. If I may not address your question or concern within 24 hours, I will let you know in advance. Email should be sent in a formal and professional style. Always put CRIJ 4381 or Gang Class in your title line as this will help me respond to your emails promptly. Do not use emoji in your email, except for smiling face ☺, because I want you to think positively every day.
**Annotated Outline of Topics to Be Covered for Each Class Meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics and readings</th>
<th>Assignment due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Mar. 22 – Mar. 26)</td>
<td>Chapter 1 and 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (Mar. 29 – Apr. 2)</td>
<td>Chapter 3 and 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (Apr. 5 – Apr. 9)</td>
<td>Chapter 5 and 6</td>
<td>Movie review due at Apr. 9 midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Apr. 12 – Apr. 16)</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Apr. 19 – Apr. 23)</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Apr. 26 – Apr. 30)</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 (May. 3 – May. 7)</td>
<td>My slides on Prison Gangs</td>
<td>Book review due at May. 7 midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (May. 8 – May. 12)</td>
<td>My slides on Chinese Triads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: The schedule may be changed during the semester. If anything needs to be changed in the syllabus, students will be noticed in advanced in class and a new version of syllabus will be posted on the Blackboard.*