

BOR 6304 / CRIJ 6304

Advanced Studies in Transnational Crime

Course Description/Overview

Transnational crime is not a new phenomenon; however, the proliferation of instantaneous communication and cross border relationships has made transnational crime a force to be reckoned with in today's society. This graduate level course will differentiate the historical and contemporary patterns, modus operandi, capabilities, and vulnerabilities of transnational criminals and organizations. The course content includes a regional analysis of on-going South American, Mexican, Asian, European, and African criminal enterprises; as well as traditional "mafia" organized crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and other transnational criminal enterprises, and the potential effect on the United States and its citizens.

Required Readings:

THIS ONE TO BE PURCHASED: Available on amazon.com and others. Purchase USED, cheaply, please!

The Global Underworld: Transnational Crime and the United States-Donald Liddick, Jr. ISBN-13: 978-0-275-98074-0; July, 2004 eBook ISBN: 978-0-313-05198-2;
ABC-CLIO Publishers

THE FOLLOWING 2 ARE AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE – DOWNLOAD

Mexico's Narco-Insurgency and US Counterdrug Policy-Hal Brand
ISBN: 1-58487-388-4; May, 2009 (eBook only-Free Download)
<https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=918>

State and Nonstate Associated Gangs: Credible Midwives of New Social Orders-Max Manwaring
ISBN: 1-58487-390-6; May, 2009 (eBook only-Free Download)
<https://ssi.armywarcollege.edu/pdf/PUB876.pdf>

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 class, 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 reading and assignments. The lessons themselves take as long as it requires the student to read the materials and watch or listen to media presentations.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to promote educational outcomes expected at the **graduate level** of instruction with the primary learning objectives as follows:

Objective One: To examine the history and the contemporary practices of transnational crime

Objective Two: To gain a clear understanding of the methods, motivation, and means of transnational crime in various regions throughout the world.

Objective Three: To understand of how transnational criminal enterprises operate throughout the world and how US policy decisions affect the transnational criminal enterprises.

Objective Four: To develop a solid foundation in which to create strategies for setting the policy priorities of the nation related to transnational crime.

Objective Five: To articulate informed opinions to discuss, analyze, evaluate, and inform decision makers on policy strategy.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Final Writing Project/Paper	30%	Week 8, Friday, by Midnight Please have your topic approved by email to instructor by Week 3
Participation in the Discussion Board	70%	Sundays, by 23:59 (11:59pm) Weekly, see bottom of each week's materials

This course uses one major writing assignment and weekly discussions to measure the student's comprehension of the presented materials. There is an extensive amount of reading assigned that will drive student responses to discussion questions and writing assignments. Staying current with course is important. The subject matter in and of itself is particularly

intense so staying on top of the subject matter and utilizing outside sources to better understand the information is imperative.

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.

The professor will post discussion questions each week and you will be required to make at least two responses toward each of the discussions as a minimum. These postings should be made thoughtfully and you should be able to provide evidence for your conclusions through the reading materials or other source documents available to you. A source document for your postings on the discussion is not Wikipedia.

The written assignment will be 12-15 pages in length on the subject matter per approved topic. The topic is due for approval in Week 3 via email. APA guidelines must be followed, and your paper must have/use times new roman, 12 point font, double spaced, cover page, and reference page. The 12-15 pages does not include the cover page and references pages. The Final Project/Paper is due by 11:59pm on Friday of week 8.

Since this is a graduate course, you are expected to think critically of the weekly subject matter and be able to develop the rationale for your opinions as to what is working or not working and be able to provide some evidence for your conclusion(s). As listed above, a source document for your written assignment-research paper is not Wikipedia. Neither the references nor cover page are a part of the word minimum.

Discussions: 70 %

Weekly Discussion postings are important and count toward the final grade. The instructor will post at least one (and possibly more than one) “thread” and ask that you participate so there is an understanding that all students comprehend the material for the week. The weekly discussion questions should directly (or indirectly) relate to the assigned reading materials for that week, and should include direct citations to the same materials. Each student is expected to post an answer to the primary discussion question (or questions) and to respond to at least two of his or her peer students’ postings each week. Since the discussion posts count for 70 percent of each student’s grade, it is expected that each post be significant, in terms of both quality and quantity. Each primary post response should be at least **250 words**, not including citations, and responses to other students should be substantive, at least 150 words, and should explain why you agree or disagree with the previous post, in significant detail, and providing citations whenever possible.

Term Project/Written Paper: 30%

This project will give you an opportunity to analyze and write about a significant issue related to the transnational crime topic. You should have benefitted from the required

readings, on-line discussions, postings, and reflect upon many of the issues discussed within the framework of the course from the many areas of transnational crime.

You are expected to produce a high quality research paper of not less than twelve (12) pages nor more than fifteen (15) pages-double spaced. APA guidelines must be followed, and your paper must have/use times new roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, cover page, and reference page. The 12-15 pages does not include the cover page and references pages. **The research paper is due by 11:59, Friday of Week 7.**

Choose a policy issue or question which is directly related to transnational crime as the topic of the research paper. The issue or question must be one that is integral and salient to the transnational crime or criminal enterprise communities, and preferably one that is personally relevant to you and the position in which you serve, or one in which you are very interested.

1. The research/library paper should reflect high quality research and reasoning in addressing each of the following components of the paper:
 1. The situational, organizational, and environmental context of the issue or question.
 2. The challenge(s) and/or problem(s) inherently associated with the issue or question.
 3. Your examination, evaluation, and analysis of the issue or question.
 4. Leadership or management decisions and actions necessary by policymakers, government leaders, and/or military commanders to deal with the issue or question.
 5. Your research paper topic is due prior to the end (Sunday by 11:59pm) of Lesson 2 (week 2), for approval. For approval, we will need a statement of the issue or question, a brief description of the significance and importance of the issue or question, and explanation of why you selected this issue or question.
 6. The research paper should balance comprehensiveness and conciseness since it is a maximum of 15 pages, not including the bibliography and appendices. There is no abstract required.
 7. The research paper should include a bibliography referencing relevant scholarly literature. You will need a minimum of 8 references. Please remember that "Wikipedia" is not considered an acceptable reference or source for this course.

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Final Exam

This course does not require a final examination, as such, but does require a submitted final project.

Other Policies

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.

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. We can no longer forcibly drop students from classes for non-attendance or non-participation. 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.

Add/Drop dates

Students may add this course up to the last Friday of the first week of class. Students may drop this course up to the 6th day of the class or the last drop date as specified by the University Administration. This class begins and ends on the dates designated in the online term schedule.

Course Organization:

Over the next 7 weeks, the weekly course lessons will be logically sequenced so the student is able to focus on a specific region of the world and be able to concentrate on the possible interactions or implications with the United States; and any US policies directed at combating the problems, where they may exist. The first lesson will include a historical overview of transnational crime and criminals and the contemporary patterns being utilized today.

Lesson 1/Week 1	The historical context of transnational crime and criminals will be reviewed in order to determine the current patterns and in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the issues associated with transnational crime.
Lesson 2	The problems associated with increased globalization and transnational crime, including South American Drug Cartels and Criminal Enterprises, including "Plan Colombia."
Lesson 3	The problems associated with increased globalization and transnational crime, including South American Drug Cartels and Criminal Enterprises, including "Plan Colombia."

Lesson 4	Transnational criminal organizations and terrorism.
Lesson 5	European, Russian, and Middle Eastern Transnational Criminal Enterprises, and the crimes associated with them, including the Russian Mafia.
Lesson 6	Asian and African Transnational Criminal Enterprises; Piracy, Human Trafficking, and Drugs.
Lesson 7	A look at criminals who export crime from the US. Focusing on Motorcycle Gangs-Drugs, Prostitution, and Murder for Hire. Home Grown Transnational Criminals; A look at international approaches to combating transnational organized crime. Course Wrap-up.
Lesson 8	A look at international approaches to combating transnational organized crime. Course Wrap-up. Paper Due: Friday, by Midnight

Participation

In this class *everyone*, brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts do count, not only to me, but the entire class. Feel free to ask questions either via e-mail or the discussion board. **Check the discussion board regularly.** Many student questions are applicable to the class as a whole, as are the responses. You may be surprised how many of your classmates have the same questions and concerns as you. I may simply post your particular question on the discussion board and allow your classmates to provide the answer through their own posts.

To some, this may be their first online class and naturally, it could seem somewhat intimidating. As a class, we are together to help each other with this learning process and share our collective knowledge on how best to communicate; how to resolve technical issues that may arise (if we have the expertise), and to assist each other to find answers to our questions. We will learn and work as a team.

Courtesy and Respect

Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Office Hours and/or hours of outside-of class contact

As this is an online class, please email me with questions (and your Research Topic for approval). There is a Student Lounge in the Discussion Board, where you can post and others can assist.

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.

Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at Angelo State University

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory *Facial Covering Policy* to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.