

BOR CRIJ 6306 Advanced Studies in International Drug Trafficking

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 this 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.

The course drop date shall be the sixth day of class, including on-line courses.

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
2. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2003 – 2013 publications
3. U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011
4. U.S. Department of State, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, 2013
5. Select publications from the Congressional Research Service, think tanks, and individual authors who are designated as experts within this field

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: 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. Each week, the student is responsible for answering the prompt question for the discussion board as their initial post, which must be at least 250 words in length and should not exceed 700 words. Remember to include both in-text citations and a properly cited reference section for all posts. Student will also be responsible for writing at least two responses to classmates' posts, which must be at least 150 words each and must include in-text citations and a properly cited references where/when necessary.

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 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.

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:

Discussion Board Posts	36%
Written Assignment #1 (Midterm)	32%
Written Assignment #2 (Final)	32%
TOTAL	100%

This course employs two written assignments. The written assignments account for 64% 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 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 only. The papers must be submitted electronically in Word or pdf format only. If necessary, laptops are provided at the library for student use.

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:

General Guidelines for Each Assignment:

- Be sure that your student ID is on each assignment. Don't put your name, the course number, or assignment number on the assignment you submit
- 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
- Use default margins for your word processing program
- Save your work to your computer!

How to Submit Your Assignment:

Classroom course:

Save your document in Word or convert to a pdf file (Acrobat or Word Image Writer) The document must meet the APA writing standards and include 1" margins, double space, with a cover sheet and reference page. The text must contain citations and footnotes where appropriate. Plagiarized works will not be accepted.

For more information on the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., please see Tutorial on the Basics of APA style on the following URL:

<http://www.apastyle.org/manual/index.aspx>

Open your email and attach the document.

Send the document to:

On-line course:

- 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, and PowerPoint presentations. 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: Introduction and Context of the World's Illicit Drug Problems

Objectives:

- 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: Afghanistan, Central Asia and Russia: The Opium Wars

Objectives:

- 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>

Lesson Three: East and Southeast Asia

Objectives:

- 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: Trafficking in Countries of the European Union

Objectives:

- 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:

Lesson Five: Africa

Objectives:

- 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

Lesson Six: Mexico and Central American Drug Trafficking Organizations

Objectives:

- 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: Control Strategies and Legislation

Objectives:

- 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: Trends and Future Implications

Objectives:

- 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

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.

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