

AJ 134 Organized Crime

Spring 2004 Term. (TTh, 1330-1445, MH 520)

Course Coverage:

This class covers a variety of topics on Organized Crime and to what is now being referred to as “transnational criminal activity.” There will be a close look at immigration as much of organized crime took root in immigrant communities and later blossomed. Some strengthened and some disappeared. Attention will be given to diverse topics such as definitions, activities and responses on the part of government and specific agencies to the phenomena. The foreign elements, known as foreign organized crime, impact global markets and operations and policies of government and they will be explored. Other topics will also be examined. Some reference will be made to those activities that are criminal but underwrite other criminal activity like terrorism.

Classroom:

MH520. Class Code Number is 26624 and is being offered at 1330-1445 hours.

Instructor:

Peter Charles Unsinger. Has some work experience in law enforcement aspects of organized crime. While a sheriff's reserve deputy in the 1970s, he was assigned to OCCIS unit. His work in aviation and maritime matters has placed him a position to acquire considerable knowledge of organized crime and transnational criminal activity. He has received considerable information from briefings and classified information of a variety of these activities concerning smuggling, narcotics production and distribution, illegal movement of people and other activities. While serving in Australian Federal Police, he assisted ABCI in development of models for analysis. Concurrently, he has worked closely with groups, including NGOs and semi-official bodies in examining aspects of organized criminal activity such as product counterfeiting and money laundering and its suppression. The majority of his field work has been in S.E. Asia.

Office and Hours:

Office is MH 521. Hours are MW @ 0800-0900 hrs. and TTh @ 0800-0930 hours .

Phone is 408 924 1350; Fax is 408 924 2953; e-mail is unsinger@email.sjsu.edu.

Caution is advised. Communications are noted only during office hours and often because of cost there are no returned messages.

Please don't leave messages about missing class or exams. I will soon notice you aren't there anyway.

Textbook:

There is really no “good” textbook. Therefore, there is no textbook. There is a vast literature, current and historical, on organized crime and transnational crime. Some of the material is housed in the library and some of it is accessible through use of internet sources.

The videos are from commercially available sources. They can, on occasion, be purchased from commercially available stock.
Missed class and you want to borrow them? Purge that thought from your mind.

Safety Issues Discussed.

Schedule:

29 January. First class meeting. Introduction to the course and the instructor. Grading criteria explained and questions entertained at this time. Slide presentation on Power Points using several examples.

3 February. Definitions of Organized Crime. Slides. Leites/Wolf Model of Insurgency applied to organized crime.

5 February Video on Organized Crime

10 February Slide Presentation: History of Organized Crime in USA (Introduction)

12 February Slide Presentation: History of Organized Crime in USA (continued)

17 February Slide Presentation: History of Organized Crime in USA (continued)

19 February Slide Presentation: Narcotics

24 February Slide Presentation: Gun/Ivory/Human Organs

26 February Slide Presentation: Gambling

2 March First Examination. Bring Blue Book.

4 March Slide Presentation: Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

9 March Slide Presentation: Sex Activities (USA)

11 March Slide Presentation: Sex Activities (Foreign)

16 March Slide Presentation: Illegal Immigration. Power Point presentation due. Put hard copy (printed) and floppy, CD or disc in 8.5x11 envelope.

18 March Slide Presentation: Money Laundering

23 March Slide Presentation: Piracy

25 March video: illegal movement of women for immoral purposes

Study Guide: useful for exams, papers and power point presentations

There are a multitude of sources useful to you in your study of the subject matter. All of these should be explored and utilized when the opportunity presents itself.

- (1) The lectures themselves provide many clues for studying the subject. Names, events, groups, concepts and many other terms are used. So, use your notes as a starting point.
- (2) There's a source often over looked. That's your TV. Programs on the History, PBS and other channels/programs offer many in-depth studies on the subject matter. Your public library may even have some from past programming.
- (3) We all know books can be an excellent source of information. The library is a good source and even some second hand bookstores can prove valuable. Even on-line book sellers such as Amazon.com provide synopsis of good books on many of the topics and subjects mentioned in lecture.
- (4) There are also many knowledgeable people that might be available to you. Asking them what they know about this person, about that topic, that event may open to you a good deal of information, some based on experience.
- (5) Another source of good information is on your internet. There are literally hundreds of the world's newspapers there. One can read the London Times, Sydney Morning Herald and the Singapore's Straits Times, to name just three.
- (6) Lastly, there is your computer to its fullest. The search engines are well known and range from Yahoo to Google. Using the topics, names, events, and other pieces of information gleaned from class and other sources, see what is available on the internet.

Combining these sources together, you should be "well armed" to tackle an essay exam question.

Outline the answer you want to make. Plug in the material gleaned from your sources at the appropriate places. Either foot/end note them or learn to incorporate your sources directly into your essay. An example of incorporation might be: "According to California's Dept. of Justice definition from their website...", or "as pointed out in..." or "My uncle Willis, a Detroit policeman then says..."

The nature of the course.

The course of study you are about to embark upon is strewn with some possible controversy. Event, groups and those actors influencing them require some interpretation. Often those interpretations may not fully agree with your viewpoint. There may be verbal explanations that you take as offensive. You must remember that while your views are yours and dear to you, not everyone holds the same views. And more importantly, no intent to hurt is present.