

JS134 Organized Crime Fall Semester 2005

Instructor: William Cleveland, Jr., JD

Office: Room MH529

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:30 – 11:30am and 1:30 – 2:30pm.

Office Telephone: no phone (do not leave messages on the listed number)

Email: alamedagroup@mindspring.com (Use email as primary contact medium.)

Class Meeting Days/Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:15pm, Room MH520

Course Description: This course will explore the origins of 20th century organized crime (OC), its evolution to transnational crime, the ethnic variations of OC, and the responses of governments to the OC problem. Students will gain an appreciation for the driving influences of OC, the businesses in which OC groups thrive, and the impact of OC on the cultures, economies and governments of countries. Law enforcement tools and strategies will be discussed, with special attention to the RICO statute.

Required Text: *Organized Crime*, (seventh edition), by Howard Abadinsky, published by Wadsworth/Thomson, 2003.

Course Format:

The primary mode of delivery of this course is lecture. Students should augment their lecture notes with outside sources, as indicated in lectures and in the text.

Class Participation: Students are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading, and being prepared to discuss it in class. Students will be divided into teams to research and report orally to the class on current events or special interest topics that are relevant to OC. Each team will have at least two weeks to prepare. All team members must participate to receive credit.

Quizzes and Exams: Examinations and quizzes will cover material from the lectures, the assigned readings, and from the oral reports. The student's grade will be determined by the results of one mid-term exam, two quizzes, one paper, and class participation (oral reports), as follows:

mid-term exam	25%	
quizzes (2)	20%	10% each
research paper	15%	
class participation	05%	
final exam	35%	All grades are based on 100 points, then weighted according to the stated percentage, to form an overall course grade based on 100 points. A standard ten-point scale determines the letter grades. (Details of the grade scale will be provided in class.)
Total	100%	

A SCANTRON form (Form 882-E) will be needed for all quizzes and exams. A BLUE BOOK will be needed, as well, for the mid-term and final exams.

Research Paper

- The student may choose the topic (subject to instructor approval, confirmed by email). The paper will include an abstract, a thesis statement, data, a conclusion (with evaluation of data in support of your thesis), and a separate references list.
- **Length:** 4 **full** pages, including abstract, **not including** cover page and references list. The paper must be **in hard copy, double-spaced, in 12 point font, with one-inch margins.** (Details on grading will be furnished in class.)
- The abstract is a capsule summary of the entire paper, and is to be single-spaced, running not more than 10 lines.
- References must number at least five, **two** of which must be **scholarly or expert professional** sources, and **none may be anonymous.**

Sources are to be cited within the text using the APA style citation method. The references list must also be in APA style. For APA style citations see internet APA sites (for example, <www2.sjsu.edu/orgs/pkp/resources.htm>. Then click on "APA Citation Style – Cornell University".)

- **Due: November 22.**

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION: A 5 points penalty for each class day late will be assessed.

Papers submitted after December 6 will not be accepted.

In accordance with University policy, any student caught cheating or plagiarizing can be given a score of "0" for that exam or paper, and, at minimum, will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs with appropriate recommendations for disciplinary action. For the University policy, see http://sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S04-12.pdf

Extra Credit Work

For five (5) extra credit points added to your research paper grade, attend one of the seven events during the **2nd Annual Academic Integrity Week**, Monday through Thursday, September 19 - 22, and write a one-page summary of the event and what you learned from it. (This will not be graded; it is worth the full five points if you submit the write-up, typed or in hand, via hard-copy or email, so that it is received by the instructor **NLT midnight on September 29.**)

After the mid-term exam, additional extra credit work may be done to improve your grade on that exam only, up to 15 points. The work will be selected and assigned by the instructor, and will be graded for quality. Further details will be announced at mid-semester, and included on my web site.

Missed exams and quizzes:

Missing an exam or quiz is a serious matter. Taking an exam after others have taken it may give one an undue advantage. If a student misses an exam or quiz, a make-up exam or quiz will be afforded. There will be a *five-point deduction* from the exam or quiz grade, *unless* the student has a medical doctor's note explaining the absence on the scheduled exam day, or documentation of the student's participation in a University-sponsored activity, or documentation of a serious family emergency.

Failure to complete any of the exams, quizzes or the paper will result in a score of “0” for that assignment, or an “I” for the course, at the instructor’s discretion (depending upon the circumstances). Extra credit points cannot be used in lieu of any of the required assignments.

Order of topics, reading assignments, and exam/paper deadlines:

The order of topics and readings indicated below will be followed, so that the student may know how to keep ahead of lecture topics in the readings. The exact dates of lecture topics cannot be predetermined. Exams and quizzes will cover only what has been covered in lectures up to that date.

- History: Italian organized crime.
Reading: Chapter 7 of text
- History: Origins of organized crime in the United States
Reading: Chapter 3

September 15: Quiz #1 – (Scantron)

- History: Organized crime in New York
Reading: Chapter 4
- History: Organized Crime in Chicago
Reading: Chapter 5

September 29: Academic Integrity extra credit due

- Attributes and structure of organized crime
Reading: Chapter 1

October 20: Mid-term Exam – bring Blue Book and Scantron form

- Causes of, and influences contributing to, organized crime
Reading: Chapter 2
- The business of organized crime (gambling, loansharking, etc.)
Reading: Chapter 11

November 17: Quiz #2 (Scantron)

- US government responses to organized crime
Reading: Chapter 14

November 22: Research papers due

- Russian organized crime

Reading: Chapter 9

- Asian organized crime

Reading: Chapter 10

**December 12: Final Exam at 2:45pm in Room MH520
(Bring BLUE BOOK, and SCANTRON form.)**