CJS 355 500 Organized Crime

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Summer II 2020

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Class Hours & Location: ONLINE

Office Hours: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I will not hold regular in-person office hours, nor will I be available by telephone. If you need assistance with the course or have questions, the following options are available:

• In the “Course Introduction” section of the content area, you will find a discussion area called “Dear Professor…” that is intended as a place to ask questions. This is my preference for answering questions about the course since others will be able to see your question and my response. Discussion boards can be useful to your classmates because it is likely that others may have a similar question.
• Email your questions to me, being sure to observe proper email etiquette.
• We can also meet via Zoom. If you wish to meet with me in real-time via Zoom, send me an email with a day/time that you wish to meet. Be sure to give me some options to choose from as my summer schedule is anything but regular.

Required textbook:


Course Protection and Intellectual Property

My personal work contained in this syllabus, the course calendar, all course content created by me are my intellectual property and are protected by law. You do not have authorization to duplicate any part of the work without my permission.

Course Description:

This course will provide students with a historical and theoretical overview of organized crime. Students will gain an understanding of the structure of organized crime as well as an understanding of the businesses associated with traditional and non-traditional organized crime groups. The course will also provide students with a detailed analysis of state and federal laws and policies regarding organized crime.

Course Objectives:

• To structure and integrate the assumptions students have about the extent of organized crime.
• To provide the student with an overview of organized crime and various organized crime groups operating in the United States.
• Acquaint students with the laws governing substantive and procedural due process used to combat organized crime such as the RICO Act.
• Students will obtain the ability to identify types of criminal organizations that, despite obvious differences, organized crime manifests similar forms across borders.
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- To allow students the opportunity to quantify the measures being taken to combat organized crime around the world and to make a comparative evaluation and debate on issues where there was a lack of consensus.

“Attendance” Policy:
Since this is an online course, attendance is not relevant. Students who wish to be successful in this course, however, should log on to the course at least 3-4 times a week, actively participate in discussion forums, and complete all assignments.

Grading Policy
Final course grades will be assessed on the following scale:

- “A” 90-100% Discussion forums: 30% of grade
- “B” 80-89% Assignments: 35% of grade
- “C” 70-79% Weekly Quizzes (5): 35% of grade
- “D” 60-69%
- “F” 0-59%

Required Course Work:
- **Discussion forums**: Throughout each week, students will participate in discussions and provide insightful comments that indicate a clear understanding of the week’s material. Complete details and requirements for student participation in discussion forums can be found in the Discussion Forum Guidelines on D2L/Brightspace.
- **Assignments**: Students will be required to complete three written assignments each week based on that week’s material.
- **Weekly Exams**: Each week, students will take a five-question (short answer/essay) exam over that week’s material. Exams will become available on Wednesday and must be completed by Saturday at midnight each week. Once you begin the exam, you will have 50 minutes to finish. Exams will be graded based on factual accuracy, the effectiveness that opinions are defended/supported (where appropriate). Errors in spelling and grammar will result in reduced grades.

Incomplete course work: Late assignments will not be accepted, and make-up exams will not be permitted without approval obtained from the instructor based on extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to military deployment, religious holidays/observances, court appearances, jury duty, family emergencies, personal or immediate family illness, or participation in student athletics or other university-approved activity.

Academic dishonesty: Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity avoiding all forms of cheating, illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, unwarranted access to instructor’s solutions’ manuals, plagiarism, forgery, collusion and submissions of the same assignment to multiple courses. Please refer to [http://catalog.sfasu.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=78#academic-integrity](http://catalog.sfasu.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=78#academic-integrity) to learn about the university’s academic dishonesty policy, which will be strictly enforced by the professor.

Disabled Student Policy:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS
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will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For further information regarding academic accommodation for students with disabilities go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-6.1.pdf

Course Withdrawal and Withheld Grades:

For information regarding course withdrawal, go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/115.asp. The last day to drop this course without a grade of WP or WF is 30 July 2020.

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.