

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY and CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE 4300/01 – ORGANIZED CRIME
CRN #80261
SYLLABUS – FALL 2014

Instructor: Prof. Peter Fenton
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Office: SO 4065

Class times: Tuesday/Thursday
5:00-6:15 pm
Social Science Bldg. 2030
Office hours T/Th 2:00-4:00 pm

TEXT:

Organized Crime, 10th edition, Howard Abadinsky, Wadsworth Publishing, Belmont, California, 2013. Required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Study the history and structure of organized crime in the U.S. and throughout the world.
2. Examine the various organized criminal enterprises in existence today.
3. Consider methods used by law enforcement to combat organized crime.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Read assigned material and come to class prepared.
3. Participate in class discussions and activities.
4. Graded assignments:

EXAMINATIONS: 4 section exams consisting of multiple choice and essay questions. Students will be tested on material covered in class lectures and discussions, videos, handouts, and the textbook. Each section exam is worth 20% of the student's final grade. Tentative dates for exams are listed below.

PROJECT: TASK FORCE – OC. Each student will be assigned to a group. Each group will represent a virtual version of a federal presidential task force established to evaluate and respond to the growing threat of organized crime in the United States. Each Task Force will:

1. Identify the particular OC group that poses the most serious current threat to the U.S. population and economy.
2. Prepare a written report and make an in-class presentation on the history, structure, and function of the group selected, as well as formal recommendations on an effective response to the threat.

The presentations and completed written assignments are due on the dates listed in the course schedule.

Additional information about this project will be provided in class.

This project will be worth 20% of the student's final grade, with these points apportioned as follows:

Written report – 10 points

Presentation – 16 points

Attendance at group meetings – 4 points (1 point per meeting, up to a maximum of 4 meetings)

Additional information about this project will be provided in class.

Each task force group will be allotted some class time on a scheduled basis so that members may confer about the ongoing project. However, students should expect to do most of their work on this project outside of class.

MAKEUP EXAMS: Each student may make up ONE of the section exams. Make-ups will be given ONLY during the date and time listed in the Course Schedule. These exams will not be identical to the ones given during the semester, but will be in the same format and will cover the same material.

LATE SUBMISSIONS: All written assignments are due at the start of class on the date listed in the course schedule, and are considered late thereafter. Late submissions will be penalized 10 points per calendar day.

No “extra credit” assignments will be given. Any student requesting extra credit work will be “whacked”.

GRADING: The final grade will be assigned as a letter grade, based on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100 points

B = 80 – 89 points

C = 70 – 79 points

D = 60 – 69 points

F = 59 points and below

A grade of Incomplete will be given only in rare circumstances, for good cause shown, such as a serious illness that precludes completion of the course. An Incomplete will not be given solely for failure to complete assignments on time. The instructor and the department chair shall have sole discretion in granting an Incomplete grade.

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Grades, announcements, and schedule changes will be posted on D2L. Students are urged to check their D2L site regularly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section III of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious or intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which may include an informal resolution by a faculty member resulting in a grade adjustment or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject the student to the minimum one-semester suspension required by the Code of Conduct.

Cheating or plagiarism in any form will result in a grade of F for the course. In addition, a report of the incident will be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Students are not permitted to use laptop or tablet computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices during class, except for the purpose of taking notes. The instructor reserves the right at any time to observe the screen content of any device used during class. If content other than class notes or other relevant material is visible, the student will be required to shut off the device and will not be allowed to use it in class thereafter.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(Tentative)

August 19	Introduction/review syllabus
August 21	Chapter 1 – Definition & Structure of OC
August 26	Chapter 4 – Explaining OC
August 28–Sept. 2	Chapter 2 – History of OC in the U.S.
Sept. 4	Project discussion – FIRST GROUP MEETINGS
Sept. 9	FIRST EXAM
Sept. 11-16	Chapter 14 – OC laws
Sept. 18-23	Chapter 15 – Law Enforcement
Sept 25-30	Chapter 11 – The business of OC
Oct 2	SECOND GROUP MEETINGS
Oct 7	SECOND EXAM
Oct 9	Chapter 12 – Drugs
Oct. 14-16	Chapter 13 – OC in labor & business
Oct. 21	Chapter 5 – Italian OC
Oct. 23-28	Chapter 3 – The American Mafia
Oct. 30	THIRD EXAM
Nov. 4	Chapter 6 – Latino OC
Nov. 6	THIRD GROUP MEETINGS
Nov. 11	Chapter 7 – Black OC
Nov. 13	Chapter 8 – Asian OC
Nov. 18	Chapter 9 – Russian OC
Nov. 20	FOURTH EXAM

Nov. 24-30	FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES
Dec 2	MAKEUP EXAMS
Dec 4	FOURTH GROUP MEETINGS
December 11	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS 6:00 – 8:00 pm