

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY and CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE 4300/01 – ORGANIZED CRIME
CRN #10217
SYLLABUS – SPRING 2014

Instructor: Prof. Peter Fenton
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Office: SO 4065

Class times: Tuesday/Thursday
3:30-4:45 pm
Social Science Bldg. 1022
Office hours T/Th 1:00-3:00 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: 3 section exams consisting of short-answer questions. Students will be tested on material covered in class lectures and discussions, videos, handouts, and the textbook. Each section exam is worth 25% of the student's final grade. Tentative dates for exams are listed below.

PROJECT: Virtual OC. Each student will be assigned to a group. Each group will represent a virtual version of an actual American outlaw motorcycle gang, with a specific structure and function similar to what is known about the actual group. At the end of the semester, each group will make an in-class presentation about their respective outlaw motorcycle gang, including information about its history, structure, and activities. In addition, students will keep a personal weekly journal of virtual activities and observations about their role in the organized crime group to which they belong. The presentations and completed journals are due on the date listed in the course schedule.

This project will be worth 25% of the student's final grade, with these points apportioned as follows:

Journal – 10 points

Attendance at group meetings – 5 points (1 point per meeting, up to a maximum of 5)
Participation in presentation – 10 points

Additional information about this project will be provided in class.

Each group will be allotted some class time on a regular 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.

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)

January 9	Introduction/review syllabus
January 14	Chapter 1 – Definition & Structure of OC
January 16	Chapter 4 – Explaining OC
January 21-23	Chapter 2 – History of OC in the U.S.
January 28	Chapter 10 – Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs Project discussion – FIRST GROUP MEETINGS
January 30	FIRST EXAM
February 4-6	Chapter 14 – OC laws
February 11-13	Chapter 15 – Law Enforcement
February 18	Chapter 11 – The business of OC
February 20	SECOND GROUP MEETINGS
February 25	SECOND EXAM
February 27	Chapter 12 – Drugs
March 4-6	Chapter 13 – OC in labor & business
March 11-13	Chapter 5 – Italian OC
March 18-20	Chapter 3 – The American Mafia
March 25	THIRD GROUP MEETINGS
March 27	Chapter 6 – Latino OC
March 29-April 4	SPRING BREAK
April 8	Chapter 7 – Black OC
April 10	Chapter 8 – Asian OC
April 15	Chapter 9 – Russian OC
April 17	FOURTH GROUP MEETINGS
April 22	THIRD EXAM

April 24

MAKEUP EXAMS

April 29

FIFTH GROUP MEETINGS

May 1

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS 6:00 – 8:00 pm