

Montgomery County Community College
CJS/SOC 255
Organized Crime
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the problem of organized crime (OC) from an interdisciplinary perspective, including a series of key legal, law enforcement and social issues, with a focus on American OC and enterprise crime in comparative perspective. Topics will include: the concept and definition of OC; a range of theoretical perspectives on OC; the relationship between white collar, criminal organized crime, enterprise crime and non-criminal economic activity; historical origins; ethnic connections; international linkages; models of organized crime; major organized crime groups; major organized criminal activities; emerging organized criminal activities; the relationship of OC to public corruption; strategies for combating organized crime; and the future outlook.

REQUISITES:*Previous Course Requirements*

- CJS 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice, or SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Define the nature, scope and impact of OC on American society.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
2. Describe the nature of OC groups and their illegal activities, including their dealings in contraband goods and services.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
3. Explain the various sociological, psychological, and political explanations for OC, and how illegal market opportunities are created.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
4. Describe and apply the major public policy and law enforcement strategies and tools that are employed in combating OC.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
5. Analyze the development of theories about organized crime, especially ethnic-based models as applied to such groupings as La Cosa Nostra, the 'queer ladder of mobility' theory, and economic explanations.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
6. Analyze the historical record of organized crime in the U.S. and relate these developments to identified groupings abroad.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
7. Contrast and compare OC and transnational crime abroad.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
8. Compare OC with other related phenomena, such as corporate crime, white collar crime, public corruption, and international terrorism.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study
9. Evaluate alternative public policy measures aimed at responding to criminal enterprise activities, and evaluate the effectiveness of current and past policies.	Assigned Readings Lectures Discussions Group Projects Case Study Analysis AV/Multimedia Materials Internet Field Trips Field Trips Essay Assignments Directed Research Book or Film Reviews Quizzes and Exams Technology Utilization (Computer and Internet)	Multiple-Choice Exam Graded Essay Graded Essay Exam Assignments Graded Research Project Individual or Group Presentation Graded Class Discussion Graded Case Study

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

- I. Introduction to Organized Crime
 1. Organized Crime: Attributes and Structure
 2. Explaining Organized Crime
 3. History of Organized Crime
- II. Organized Crime in the United States
 4. Organized Crime in New York
 5. Organized Crime in Chicago
 6. African-American Organized Crime

- III. International and Transnational Organized Crime
 - 7. Italian Organized Crime
 - 8. Latino Organized Crime
 - 9. Russian Organized Crime
 - 10. Asian Organized Crime
- IV. The Business of Organized Crime
 - 11. Gambling, Loansharking, Theft, Fencing, the Sex Trade, and Narcotics
 - 12. Organized Crime in Labor and Business
- V. Fighting Organized Crime
 - 13. Organized Crime Statutes
 - 14. Organized Crime Law Enforcement

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Required Text:

Abadinsky, Howard. (2012). *Organized Crime* (10th ed.). Wadsworth/Thomson.

Internet sources will also be employed as required reading. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with a number of key websites, including:

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Benn Prybutok Date: 1/13/2004

Revised by: Benn Prybutok Date: 1/30/2009

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr. Date: 9/11/2009

Revised by: Benn Prybutok Date: 2/22/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 2/25/2013

Revised by: Jayden Sampson Date: 12/16/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 12/18/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.