I. Course Information

Instructor

Instructor: Professor Gwendolyn Williams, Esq.
Email: gwendolyn.williams@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Office hours by appointment only

Course Overview

This course is designed to provide to the student a realistic understanding of how organized crime exists and operates in the United States and other countries. We will focus on the evolution of organized crime and how newly organized crime groups are developing in America. We will review the history of organized crime, its famous members, and how it is viewed in the media from print to film. Students will learn about law enforcement’s response to organized crime from the local to the national level.

Prerequisite

Students are to come to class with an open mind and the eagerness to learn.

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g. police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as the broader social, political, and economic world.

2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.
3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.
5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- To define organized crime
- Understand the evolution of organized crime
- Identify the classifications of organized crime
- To have a better understanding of how various law enforcement agencies combat organized crime
- Describe the constitutional limitations upon investigating organized criminal activities
- Distinguish organized crime from other forms of criminal activities
- Demonstrate knowledge of vice crime, victimless crime and organized crimes
- To understand how society is affected organized crime by evaluating the economic and social impact of same
- Demonstrate knowledge of current political and social problems and issues as they relate to organized crime.

**Required Readings**


Other materials to be announced later and notice about these materials will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

**Texts and Materials**

Students will be required to critically read, analyze and summarize the *Selected Readings* from chapters in books, journal articles, periodicals, and the media (distributed in class, posted on Blackboard, or sent to student’s Rutgers’s email). Additionally readings may be added based on current events, guest lectures and other related materials that impact this class.

**Exams**

Four exams will be offered during class time. The exams may be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answers.
Missed Exams

Students who fail to take an exam on the date scheduled will not be provided a make-up exam unless extenuating circumstances exist and proper documentation is provided to warrant such action. Failure to promptly notify me of the need for a make-up examination will result in a grade of zero for that examination. Failure to provide documentation will result in a grade of zero for that examination. Documentation must be provided before the make-up exam can be administered.

II. Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

- Exam One 15%
- Exam Two 15%
- Exam Three 15%
- Exam Four 25%
- Class Participation 10%
- Group Presentations 10%
- Attendance 10%

Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>85 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 84</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>75 - 79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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### III. Course Schedule

**Organized Crime**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**6 pm – 7:20 pm**

**Schedule of Classes - Spring 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme/Key Topic</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Assignment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td>Introductions, Distribution of Syllabus &amp; Course Requirements</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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</table>
| **January 16 & 18, 2018** | Organized Crime: What is it?  
What role, if any, does it play in Society? |                         |
| **Week 2**            | Characteristic Organized Crimes I: Conspiracy and Provision of Illicit Goods  
and Services                                                                 | Chapter 2               |
| **January 23 & 25, 2018** |                                                                 |                         |
| **Week 3**            | Characteristic Organized Crimes II: Infiltration of Business, Extortion, and  
Racketeering                                                                 | Chapter 3               |
| **January 30 & February 1, 2018** |                                                                 |                         |
| **Week 4**            | Causes of Organized Crime: Influences on Individuals                           | Chapter 4               |
| **February 6 & 8, 2018** | (Exam #1)                                                                      |                         |
| **Week 5**            | The Media’s portrayal of Organized Crime:  
Fantasy vs. Reality  
Newspaper, Television and Film                                              | Handouts                |
| **February 13 & 15, 2018** |                                                                 | Guest Speaker           |
| **Week 6**            | How Organized Crime is Organized: Types of Organizations                       | Chapter 5               |
| **February 20 & 22, 2018** |                                                                 |                         |
## Organized Crime (Continued)

Tuesdays & Thursdays
6 pm – 7:20 pm

Schedule of Classes - Spring 2018

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme/Key Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>The Mafia: 100 Years of Historical Facts and Myths</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27 &amp; March 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Changes in Organized Crime: From Local to Transnational</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6 &amp; 8, 2018</td>
<td>Review for Exam #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK!</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13 &amp; 15, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Transnational Organized Crime</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20 &amp; 22, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Investigative Tools: Investigators of Organized Crime</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27 &amp; 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Prosecution Strategies: Tools for Prosecution</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>April 2 &amp; 5, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Organizing a Criminal Defense</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10 &amp; 12, 2018</td>
<td>Review for Exam #3</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
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### Organized Crime (Continued)

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
6 pm – 7:20 pm

**Schedule of Classes - Spring 2018**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17 &amp; 19</td>
<td><strong>Sentencing and Prevention of Organized Crime</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chapter 12</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Student Classroom Presentations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 15</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24 &amp; 26, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Student Classroom Presentations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Review for Final Exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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Syllabus may be subject to change, if so, you will be given notice of same.

### IV. The Group Presentation

**THE GROUP PRESENTATION** will require the participation of all group members. That means, all group members are to participate in the presentation. All group members are to know the facts of the presentation and can answer questions from the audience, during and after said presentation. **Your group presentation is limited to no less than 15 minutes and not more than 20 minutes.** You can use PowerPoint, handouts and/or video as part of your presentation. Each group member is to introduce his/herself to the audience and state the extent of his/her participation in this presentation. All students are to speak incomplete sentences and loud enough for your classmates to hear you. The presentation will be graded on content, grammar, presentation and participation.

Your topic of course is Organized Crime.
1. Some topics to consider are as follows:
   a. The Origin of Organized Crime in the United States
   b. The Origin of Organized crime in other countries
   c. The role of women in organized crime either traditionally or in modern times
   d. The prosecution of organized crime members - give examples of famous cases
   e. The media and organized crime – how is it portrayed?
   f. Does the media’s portrayal of organized crime influence society?

**INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION PAPER** - You are to write a 1-2-page paper about your involvement in this presentation. Were you a team player, did the group listen to everyone’s ideas before making presentation decisions. What were the benefits of this group presentation as it related to this class? Was your participation in this group worth your time? State the reasons why and/or why not. **Your individual presentation paper is to be typed and submitted at the end of your presentation on the date assigned.**

IV. Course Policies

**Classroom Conduct**

**Attendance:** You are allowed one unexcused absence.

**Classroom Conduct:** Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to work. If you will be late, (more than 10 minutes), please inform me ASAP.

**Attendance Sheet:** You are to sign the attendance sheet prior to each class.

**Leaving Early:** If you must leave early, you are to inform me prior to class. When you leave, do so quietly and discreetly. Please note that leaving with more than an hour left of class will constitute a half-absence.

**Food:** You may eat snack (i.e. candy bar or M & M’s) beverages (coffee, tea, water or soda); so long as you do so quietly and properly dispose of your trash.

**Electronics:** All cell phones should be turned off or be on silent mode. Laptop use is prohibited. NOT ALLOWED  **No recording of classroom sessions.**

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated. We will treat each other with respect.
**Academic Integrity**

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity)

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**Academic Resources**

**Students with Disabilities**

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.353.5300
Fax: 973.353.5666
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu
Website: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Psychological and Counseling Services**

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center ([http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5805)), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

If you are interested in finding out more about
- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)
Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/)