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# Topics in Criminal Justice:

# Drug Trafficking

# 3 credits

# Fall 2020

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Ko-lin Chin

Office Location: Room 543, Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St.

Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm

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**Course Overview**

This course will focus on the trafficking of opium, heroin, amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), and cocaine. The class will begin by looking at opium and heroin, its development as a trafficked commodity around the globe, the organizations and groups that engaged in the cultivation of opium and trafficking of heroin, and the social and political pressures that changed and in some cases guided the heroin trafficking patterns. Following heroin, the class will study the trajectory of methamphetamine and other ATS drugs and the unique groups and individuals that made methamphetamine trafficking what it is today. The class will next tackle the history and the trafficking of cocaine as it is moved from a legal commodity to an illicit substance, the groups that made history and in some cases fame trafficking cocaine, and the social and political decisions that made cocaine trafficking what it is today.

**Prerequisite**

None

**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 well 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 Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

### 1) understand global drug trafficking patterns,

### 2) articulate the structure of drug trafficking organizations and their modus operandi,

### 3) recognize how society, governments, and law enforcement continue to impact the trafficking of heroin, cocaine, and ATS,

### 4) understand the role of organized crime, violence, and gender in drug trafficking.

### Required Text

All the reading materials are posted on Blackboard under Course Documents.

Course Requirements and Processes

Attendance and Participation

Students are required to read assigned articles, submit the weekly assignments, and take the mid-term and final exams. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

Grading

1. Weekly assignments 40%
2. Mid-term exam 30%
3. Final-exam 30%

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A       Outstanding      4.0  90-100%

B+                              3.5  87-89%

B       Good                3.0  80-86%

C+                            2.5  77-79%

C       Satisfactory      2.0  70-76%

D       Poor                 1.0  60-69%

F       Failure              0.0 <60%

# Course Schedule

**September 3-9 Orientation**

**(Week 1)**

**Part I The Drug Trade in Southeast Asia and China**

**(Readings: Chin’s book *The Golden Triangle* and Chin and Zhang’s book *The Chinese Heroin Trade*)**

## September 10-16 Burma, the Golden Triangle, and the Wa

## (Week 2) Introduction and Chapter 1 & 2 of The Golden Triangle

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**September 17-23 The Opium Trade**

**(Week 3)** Chapter 3 of *The Golden Triangle*

**September 24-30Heroin Production and Trafficking**

**(Week 4)** Chapter 4 of *The Golden Triangle*

**October 1-7 The Methamphetamine Business**

**(Week 5)** Chapter 5 of *The Golden Triangle*

**October 8-14 The Chinese Connection**

**(Week 6)** Chapter 1 of the *Chinese Heroin Trade*

**October 15-21**  **Wholesale Heroin Trafficking**

**(Week 7)** Chapter 3 of the *Chinese Heroin Trade*

**October 22-28 Low-level Heroin Trafficking**

**(Week 8)** Chapter 4 of the *Chinese Heroin Trade*

**October 29 Mid-term**

**2:30 pm**

**Part II** **The Drug Business in the Western Hemisphere**

# October 29-November 4 “Organized Crime in Colombia” by Thoumi

**(Week 9)**

**November 5-11** “Mexican Drug ‘Cartels’” by Medel & Thoumi

**(Week 10)**

**November 12-18** “Central America and the International Trade in Drugs” by Bunck &

**(Week 11)** Fowler

**November 19-25** “From Cali to Rotterdam” by Zaitch

**(Week 12)**

**November 26-December 2 No Class – Thanksgiving**

**(Week 13)**

# December 3-9 “Research on Upper Level Drug Trafficking” by Desroches

# (Week 14)

**December 10-16** “Women in the Drug Economy” by Maher

**(Week 15)**

**December 17 Final**

**2:30 pm**

**General Information (School and University)**

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://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). 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.

Students with Disabilities

As stated in the Manual for Students and Coordinators of Services for Students with Disabilities (<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/docs/studentmanual.pdf>), 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 students with disabilities, review the manual and then contact the Student Disability Coordinator, Nelitha Wilson-Michael (nmichael@andromeda.rutgers.edu; 973-353-5300), who is located in room 352 in the Robeson Campus Center.

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](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.

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu/). Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals who are Pregnant**: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Absence Verification:**  The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](https://policies.rutgers.edu/1027-currentpdf) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**For English as a Second Language (ESL)**: The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/.

**For support related to interpersonal violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does ***not*** have an obligation to report information to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

**For Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?RutgersUniv&layout_id=11) or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

**For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being:** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

**For emergencies**, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

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/>

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ\_apps

 

