


RUTGERS School of Criminal Justice

47:202:466:61
Topics in Criminal Justice:
Drug Trafficking
3 credits
Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ko-lin Chin

Office Location: Room 543, Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St. Newark, NJ 07102

Class time: Tuesday 6:00 – 8:40

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00

Email: kolin.chin@rutgers.edu

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

Duran-Martinez, Angelica. 2018. *The Politics of Drug Violence: Criminals, Cops, and Politicians in Colombia and Mexico*. New York: Oxford University Press. (buy it online)

All other reading materials are posted on Canvas under Modules.

Course Requirements and Processes

Students are required to read assigned chapters, attend all classes and participate in class discussion in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to be present from the beginning to the end of all class sessions, and to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

Grading

1. Class attendance and participation	10%
2. Mid-term exam	40%
3. Final-exam	50%

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 6

Orientation

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 13

Burma, the Golden Triangle, and the Wa

Introduction: Into the Thick of It, *The Golden Triangle*
Chapter 1: The Golden Triangle and Burma, *The Golden Triangle*
Chapter 2: The Wa, *The Golden Triangle*

September 20

The Opium Trade

Chapter 3: The Opium Trade, *The Golden Triangle*

September 27

Heroin Production and Trafficking

Chapter 4: Heroin Production and Trafficking, *The Golden Triangle*

October 4

The Methamphetamine Business

Chapter 5: The Methamphetamine Business, *The Golden Triangle*

October 11

The Chinese Connection I

Chapter 1: The Chinese Connection, *Chinese Heroin Trade*
Chapter 3: Wholesale Heroin Trafficking, *Chinese Heroin Trade*

October 18 **The Chinese Connection II**
Chapter 4: Low-Level Heroin Trafficking, *Chinese Heroin Trade*
Chapter 5: The Social Organization of Entrepreneurial Traffickers,
Chinese Heroin Trade

October 25 **Mid-term Exam**

Part II The Drug Business in the Western Hemisphere

November 1 **Central America**
“Central America and the International Trade in Drugs” by Bunck &
Fowler

November 8 **Drug Cartels as Organized Crime in Colombia and Mexico**
“Organized Crime in Colombia” by Thoumi
“Mexican Drug ‘Cartels’” by Medel & Thoumi

November 15 **Drug Violence in Colombia and Mexico I**
The Politics of Drug Violence, Ch. 1 (States, Trafficking, and
Violence), Ch. 2 (Conceptualizing Drug Violence), Ch. 3
(Democratization and State Capacity to Control Violence)

November 22 **No Class/Thanksgiving**

November 29 **Drug Violence in Colombia and Mexico II**
The Politics of Drug Violence, Ch. 4 (Medellin), Ch. 5 (Cali and
Culiacan)

December 6 **Drug Violence in Colombia and Mexico III**
The Politics of Drug Violence, Ch. 6 (Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana),
Conclusion

December 13 **Final Exam**

General Information (School and University)

Health and Safety

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during

class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: myRutgers Portal.

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>; 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 Experiencing Disability: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website \(ods.newark.rutgers.edu\)](http://ods.newark.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 Short-term Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) 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 (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 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 Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at <https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf>

For support related to Interpersonal Violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE 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 students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *Sanvello* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit <https://my.rutgers.edu/>, click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

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://www.newark.rutgers.edu/rscj>