

CRIM 477 - ORGANIZED CRIME

Chris Eskridge
310 Nebraska Hall
ceskridge@unl.edu
913-636-3321

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will deal with issues surrounding the phenomena of organizational crime. Students will be exposed to the history and development of organized crime in the United States and abroad. Historical and contemporary case studies will be reviewed. Organizational crimes such as illegal gambling, narcotics trafficking, racketeering and extortion, human trafficking, arms trafficking, wildlife trafficking, trafficking in human organs, art crime and money laundering will be explored.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Readings on the course webpage - <https://eskridge.unl.edu/crim-477-organized-crime/>

EVALUATION

Students are to complete one examination, and one term paper which they are to research and write. The exam is worth 60 percent of the course grade, and the term paper is worth 40 percent of the course grade.

The examination will be given in class on Tuesday, March 10. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the study guide posted on the class webpage to prepare for the exam. Nearly all of the names, organizations and miscellaneous terms and locations on the study guide will be on the exam.

The term paper is to be a minimum of 3,500 words in length not including references (roughly 12 double-spaced pages). Note the word count on the last page of the paper narrative (ie., just before the reference page). The term paper is due no later than Monday, May 4. The paper to be submitted as an email attachment, preferably in Word format, to - ceskridge@unl.edu. Computer/AI generated work is not acceptable.

Students should incorporate material found on the course webpage in the term paper (see <https://eskridge.unl.edu/crim-477-organized-crime/>). Students are also expected to utilize materials in addition to those found on the class webpage. Some combination of at least 4 to 6 outside journal/magazine articles, web-postings, books, and/or films should be used as sources in addition to 4 to 6 items from the class webpage.

The term paper should adhere to a professional format with a particular focus on utilizing proper citation methods (see Term Paper Guidelines, posted on the course webpage). Utilizing proper citation methods is an important aspect of the assignment. Students might consider contacting the UNL Writing Center at 472-8803 for assistance with paper composition and formatting.

Students may submit their paper by April 20 for reviews and comments by the course instructor. Students may then revise and resubmit their paper by the My 4 deadline if they wish.

Student may earn extra credit toward their grade by attending the State of the Agency lecture series presentations given during the semester, and writing a paper of at least 400 words in length for each. Tentative dates for the Spring term extra-credit events are February 17, March 24 and April 21. Each paper is worth an extra credit of five (5) percent toward the final grade, and are due no later than one week after the respective State of the Agency presentations. Submit

the papers as an email attachment to - ceskridge@unl.edu. Computer/AI generated work is not acceptable.

COURSE GRADE

Students may choose to complete the course on a Pass/Fail basis, or receive a standard grade. A standard "curve" will be used to determine the course grade (90%-A; 80%-B; 70%-C; 60%-D). A passing grade is a C for those choosing the Pass/No Pass option. Attendance will not be taken, but students should plan on attending class on a regular basis in as much as the exams will emphasize material presented in class. Students who miss a class session should make arrangements to obtain notes from another class member.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1 - Introduction to Organized Crime
Section 2 - History of Traditional Organized Crime in America
Section 3 - American Organized Crime Case Studies
Section 4 - International Organized Crime
Section 5 - Human Trafficking and People Smuggling
Section 6 - Racketeering and Extortion
Section 7 - Money Laundering
Section 8 - Narcotics and Drug Trafficking
Section 9 - Miscellaneous Organized Crime Ventures
Section 10 - Genocide

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln provides individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that is impacting your academic progress, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office (<https://ssd.unl.edu/>; 402-472-3787) and schedule an appointment with a professional staff member. If you do not have a documented disability but you are having difficulties with your coursework (such as receiving low grades even though you studied rigorously, or you are running out of time to complete exams in the allotted time when the majority of your peers finish their exams in that allotted time), you may still contact the SSD office and schedule an appointment to discuss the challenges you are experiencing.

STUDENT COUNSELING AND SPECIAL CHALLENGE ASSISTANCE

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln provides assistance to students with special challenges. For the UNL Office of Student Support, call 402-472-7030, for Voice of Hope call 402-472-7273, for the Lincoln Police Department Victim Assistance call 402-441-7181, and for UNL Counseling and Psychological Services call 402-472-7450.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

<https://executivevc.unl.edu/tipsheets/student-mental-health-and-resources/>

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND TRANSITION

The CAST Center supports students with academic issues. They have one-on-one coaching to help students with everything from studying to test anxiety to motivation and time management. CAST contact information: <https://success.unl.edu/>; 402-472-1880.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options

privately. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). If you are eligible for services and register with their office, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so they can be implemented in a timely manner. SSD contact information: <https://ssd.unl.edu/>; 402-472-3787.

This policy can be found at: www.unl.edu/ssd/content/syllabus-statement-faculty

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an academic institution. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. The University's Student Code of Conduct addresses academic dishonesty (<https://studentconduct.unl.edu/university-nebraska-student-code-conduct-0/>). Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and are granted due process and the right to appeal any decision.

PLAGIARISM

The UNL Code of Conduct defines plagiarism as “presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source) and submitting examination, theses, reports, speeches, drawings, laboratory notes or other academic work in whole or in part as one’s own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person. Materials covered by this prohibition include, but are not limited to, text, video, audio, images, photographs, websites, electronic and online materials, and other intellectual property.” Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Consequences for plagiarism are up to the discretion of the instructor; they may range, for example, from rewriting all or part of a paper to a grade of F for the course. Students who plagiarize more than once are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university. If you have a question about using or citing another writer’s work, DO NOT GUESS. Check with your instructor or a consultant at the UNL Writing Center (402-472-8803). Bring a printout of the original source and your paper to the consultation.

UNL ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The UNL Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://studentconduct.unl.edu/academic-integrity>

UNL COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Students are responsible for knowing the university policies and resources found on this page (<https://go.unl.edu/coursepolicies>):

- University-Wide Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty Policy
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Mental Health and Well-Being Resources
- Final Exam Schedule
- Fifteenth Week Policy
- Emergency Procedures
- Diversity & Inclusiveness
- Title IX Policy
- Other Relevant University-Wide Policies