

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CJ-5328 – Transnational Crime**

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required Texts:**

Kethineni, S. (Ed.). (2014). *Comparative and international policing, justice, and transnational crime*. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

**Additional Resources:**

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

**Nature of the Syllabus**

This syllabus is an academic contract between the instructor and the student. Any oversights, contradictions, or discrepancies will be clarified by the instructor as the oversight is discovered.

**Criminal Justice Graduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)**

**HS PLO 1:** Develop the ability to apply historical knowledge of the CJ system and recognize patterns of system change, particularly since 9-11. Develop the ability to identify and analyze various legal challenges to laws and policies within Homeland Security.

**HS PLO 2:** Working knowledge of the structure and goals of Homeland Security at the local, state and national levels. Ability to identify, assess and compare policy processes and outcomes in Homeland Security.

**HS PLO 3:** Develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research. The ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology. Develop the ability to apply research to Homeland Security policy.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of criminal organizations and their crimes on the global stage. Focus is particularly on those organizations and crimes that cross international boundaries. Areas of study include organized crime, trafficking in drugs, humans and weapons, piracy, and other crimes groups and individual criminals. Global efforts and prevention, interdiction and

punishment will also be covered. A particular focus will be on placing these issues in the context of Homeland Security and the war on terror.

**Platform:** This course will be contained within the Blackboard format and will not meet in person during the term. Students are expected to log in regularly to complete assignments. Students should familiarize themselves with all of the sections of blackboard available for this course. Assignments and tests will be listed under the appropriate subheading. Students will also need to become familiar with the discussion board for completing some of this work.

As this is a graduate course, students will be expected to be self motivated, and work independently. Standards for graduate courses are higher than those for undergraduate work – students will engage in more research, reading, and writing. Any computer glitches must be reported promptly or the student will not receive credit on the affected work.

Technical problems can be reported to me - through e-mail is usually the best idea, and/or to the Help Desk at 432-837-8888 locally, 8888 from on campus or 1-888-837-2882 from out of area. You can also log into the LTAC system and create a ticket by going to <https://techassist.sulross.edu/> If you report an issue through the Help Desk or create a ticket by logging into the system, you should send me an email with a description of your issue and the ticket number so I can help ensure that technical issues are addressed and do not negatively affect your grades. If you do not promptly report your technical problems, you will not get credit for any work affected by the problem.

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

This is a master's level course so everyone should know not to engage in these practices. Students are expected to do their own work on all papers. Cheating and plagiarism on assignments will result in a grade of "F" on that part of the course, a possible grade of "F" for the entire course, and possible recommendation for suspension from the university.

Plagiarism consists of presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting examinations or other work in whole or in

part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person (see the Student Handbook). Plagiarism includes improper use of citations in the research paper, copying from sources without citations, copying without quotation marks, etc.

**Important!**

Contact your instructor promptly if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance.

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact Grace Duffy in the Accessibility Services Office, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-122, (432) 837-8203.

**Standard Work Week: For the purposes of this course, the work week begins on Monday morning at 6:00AM and ends on Saturday evening at 11:59PM, Central Time. Sunday will be a day for each of us to relax.**

**Requirements:**

**Research Papers:** Four short (1,250 – 1,500 word) research papers are required for this class. The topics for each paper are listed here:

- Paper 1: Discuss the history and international proliferation, with particular emphasis on proliferation into the United States, of the Sicilian Mafia.
- Paper 2: Discuss the history and interests of the Yazuka, generally, and Yamamuchi-gumi, specifically. Answer the question “How is the Yazuka different from other international syndicates?”
- Paper 3: Discuss the history and international proliferation of a drug gang or cartel of your choice. Give specific emphasis to the impact of your chosen organization on the United States.
- Paper 4: Examine the impact of the Dark Web on the availability of illegal goods and services to the global community. How has the Dark Web enabled criminal enterprises to expand into new illegal goods (human trafficking, drug and arms trade, etc.) into new markets and consumers? How has virtual currency (BitCoin, etc.) aided in the expansion of illegal trade? How can law enforcement combat the new reality of this market expansion?

Your papers should be in APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition format, with appropriate in-text citations and references. Papers are due at 11:59PM on Saturday night as noted in the weekly course schedule below. *Each paper is worth 15% of your overall course grade.*

**Discussion Questions:** In addition to the above, each week students will be presented with a discussion question related to the chapter readings and other assigned readings for the week. Students are expected to post their initial discussion thread to the associated discussion board NO LATER THAN Thursday at 11:59PM Central Time of each week. Thereafter, students are expected to respond to AT LEAST one (1) of their classmates' initial posts NO LATER THAN Saturday at 11:59PM Central Time. Responses must be substantive. There are a total of 16 discussion questions (your personal introduction and 15 textbook-based questions) worth 40% (2.5% each) of your overall grade.

Students are expected to contribute in significant ways to the discussion boards, based on the readings, but also on personal experience and knowledge gained through other course work, etc. This portion of the course is expected to replace the normal dialog that would occur within an in-class course and students will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the subjects being discussed. This also means that students may have to do outside research.

Students will need to log frequently in order to deal with class posts in a timely manner. Students will also be expected to respond to the information posted by other students which may mean logging in several times a week. The professor will review all initial posts and responses, *but may or may not respond to individual students.*

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1 (20 – 24 January 2015): Comparative Criminal Justice – An Overview:**

**Discussion Question 1.1:** Introduce yourself to the class (and to Dr. Rubin). Give your name, place of residence, occupation and place of employment, and tell us why you are pursuing an MSCJ.

**Discussion Question 1.2:** Several Different ways of deciding whether a person committed a crime are presented in chapter 1 of the textbook. Of the ways presented, which do you think is the most accurate method of identifying truly guilty individuals? Explain your choice. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 1 (Reichel)

### **Week 2 (26 – 31 January 2015): Roles of International Justice Organizations**

**Discussion Question 2.1:** The reading discusses the IJC and the ICC in great detail. Given the information presented, and your own research into the various international courts, are these courts effective in meeting their goals? Justify your answer with support from the reading and your own research. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 2 (Jamison & Vandiver)

### **Week 3 (2 – 7 February 2015): Sovereign Lawlessness**

**Discussion Question 3.1:** Based on your reading in the textbook and your own research, discuss the legal intricacies of “extraordinary renditions” vis-à-vis suspected enemy combatants wanted by the United States government. What are the long-term implications of such renditions? How do we resolve any diplomatic backlash with the overall need to prosecute terrorists? Consider how many we have held at Gitmo over the years versus the number of public trials. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 3 (Ketheneni & Lawson)

### **Week 4 (9 – 14 February 2015): International Law Enforcement Organizations**

**Paper 1:** This week you must submit your first research paper BY E-MAIL to Dr. Rubin no later than 11:59PM Central Time on Saturday, 14 February 2015.

In this paper of 1,250 – 1,500 words, you are to discuss the history and international proliferation, with particular emphasis on proliferation into the United States, of the Sicilian Mafia.

**Discussion Question 4.1:** Discuss the mission and efficacy of INTERPOL. Is there a need for a more robust international law enforcement/policing body? Justify your response. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 4 (Deflem & McDonough)

### **Week 5 (16 – 21 February 2015): Policing in Other Countries**

**Discussion Question 5.1:** Given the new challenges of domestic terrorism around the world, discuss the advantages, disadvantages, and philosophies behind unarmed police officers in countries such as England. How does a police officer maintain order and security in the modern world without lethal weapons? Explain your response. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 5 (Dammer)

### **Week 6 (23 – 28 February 2015): Corrections in Other Countries**

**Discussion Question 6.1:** Public physical punishment (caning, etc.) and public executions are still a mainstay of correctional systems in many countries. Discuss the efficacy of such public spectacles vis-à-vis the non-public system of capital punishment in the United States. Which is more effective in deterring crime? Explain your position using evidence from the text and your own research. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 7 (Kethinemi & McCullough)

### **Week 7 (2 – 7 March 2015): Juvenile Justice**

**Discussion Question 7.1:** Trying children as young as 7 is commonplace in the world today. In your opinion, at what age does a child/adolescent have the mental awareness to appreciate the seriousness of their actions? Given your response, which of the four model of juvenile justice is best for the adjudication and punishment of juvenile offenders? Justify your opinion on each question. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 8 (Kethinemi, McCullough & Charlton)

### **Week 8 (9 – 14 March 2015): The Global World Order**

**Paper 2:** This week you must submit your first research paper BY E-MAIL to Dr. Rubin no later than 11:59PM Central Time on Saturday, 14 March 2015.

In this paper of 1,250 – 1,500 words, you are to discuss the history and interests of the Yazuka, generally, and Yamamguchi-gumi, specifically. Answer the question “How is the Yazuka different from other international syndicates?”

**Discussion Question 8.1:** Many times, the United States has acted either in conjunction with the United Nations or unilaterally as the world's police force. This has led to tension and resentment towards the United States by other countries. What is the best way to establish a consistent and just global order? What is your vision of a global normative order? Explain your answers. Your initial response should be between 500 and 750 words.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 9 (Rubin...NOT ME!!!)

**Week 9 (16 – 21 February 2015): SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10 (23 – 28 March 2015): Human Rights**

**Discussion Question 10.1:** The United States is self-viewed as the voice of reason in the world; that is, we see ourselves as the world's most civilized and companionate country. Do you agree or disagree with this internalized view? Justify this internalized view given the human rights record of the United States.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 10 (Margaryan)

**Week 11 (30 March – 4 April 2015): War Crimes**

**Discussion Question 11.1:** After World War II, the Nuremburg Trials were held and many Nazis were successfully prosecuted for genocide and crimes against humanity. Is the international stage an appropriate place to hold war crimes trials? What is the appropriate punishment for genocidal acts? Explain your answer.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 11 (Weisheit)

**Week 12 (6 – 11 April 2015): Transnational Corruption**

**Discussion Question 12.1:** Under the best circumstances, corruption is difficult to detect and prosecute. Given the extranational nature of transnational corruption, what avenues are available to law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure that corrupt individuals are appropriately prosecuted and punished? Who should take the lead in transnational corruption cases? Explain your answer.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 14 (Cox)

**Week 13 (13 – 18 April 2015): International Drug Trafficking**

**Paper 3:** This week you must submit your first research paper BY E-MAIL to Dr. Rubin no later than 11:59PM Central Time on Saturday, 18 April 2015.

In this paper of 1,250 – 1,500 words, you are to discuss the history and international proliferation of a drug gang or cartel of your choice. Give specific emphasis to the impact of your chosen organization on the United States.

**Discussion Question 13.1:** IF we assume that marijuana is a stepping stone to harder narcotics, how does the movement to legalize marijuana potentially impact the international heroin trade? Consider the long-term impacts of legalized marijuana and narcotics trafficking in The Netherlands as a basis for your response. Explain your answer.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 15 (Neuilly)

#### **Week 14 (20 – 25 April 2015): Modern International Crime, part 1**

**Paper 4:** This week you will begin work on your final paper, which is due on Friday, 8 May 2015

In this paper of 1,250 – 1,500 words, you are to examine the impact of the Dark Web on the availability of illegal goods and services to the global community. How has the Dark Web enabled criminal enterprises to expand into new illegal goods (human trafficking, drug and arms trade, etc.) into new markets and consumers? How has virtual currency (BitCoin, etc.) aided in the expansion of illegal trade? How can law enforcement combat the new reality of this market expansion?

**Discussion Question 14.1:** Should there be a comprehensive body of law on all forms of international crime that can be enforced over international boundaries by an true international police force and court system? Is such a concept possible? Explain your position.

**Assigned Reading:** An Overview of the Dark Web (posted in the Content section of Blackboard)  
Ketheneni Chapter 17 (Srinivasan, Pandian, & Enoch)

#### **Week 15 (27 April – 2 May 2015): Modern International Crime, part 2**

**Discussion Question 15.1:** This week you are to post your Paper 4 to the appropriate discussion board. You are to offer constructive criticism (peer-review) to at least one classmate.

**Assigned Reading:** Ketheneni Chapter 17 (Srinivasan, Pandian, & Enoch)

#### **Week 16 (4 – 8 May 2015): Final Week**

**Paper 4:** This week you must submit your Paper 4 BY E-MAIL to Dr. Rubin no later than 11:59PM Central Time on FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2015.