Sul Ross State University

Organized Crime
Fall 2026
CJ 3307/CRIM 3307

Syllabus

Instructor: Oguzhan Demir, Ph.D.

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Class hours: Online

Classroom: Online

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 3-4 PM **(Online)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the complex world of organized crime. Students will explore its defining characteristics, organizational structures, and the diverse groups involved, alongside the theoretical frameworks used to understand the phenomena. Beyond the basics, the curriculum delves into law enforcement responses, national and international countering strategies, and the evolving nature of emerging criminal threats.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Organized Crime (any version from 10 to newest)

Author: Howard Abadinsky

ISBN-13: 978-1305633711

https://www.cengage.com/c/organized-crime-11e-abadinsky/9780357670880/

https://www.amazon.com/Organized-Crime-Howard-Abadinsky/dp/1305633717

Additional resources to be posted on Blackboard.

LIBRARIES

Additional readings can be found in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of the University and reach the articles on the reading list.

Syllabus is subject to updates and changes always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide knowledge about various topics related to organized crime. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

LO1- Understand the general definition and characteristics of organized crime. The features of criminal networks. Transnational nature of organized crime. The connection, similarities and differences between terrorism and organized crime.

LO2- Learn, examine and discuss the different social and individual theoretical approaches explaining organized crime. The students will get information about the theories such as strain, subculture, differential association, social control, ethnic succession, and psychological theories.

LO3- Understand the evolution and history of Italian, Albanian, Mexican, Colombian, Russian, Asian, African organized crime groups and the connections between them and American organized crime groups.

LO4- Understand the origins and major types of the outlaw motorcycle groups, their relations with organized crime groups in America.

LO5- Understand the business type activities of organized crime groups such as gambling, loan sharks, labor racketeering, cybercrimes, human trafficking, fire-arms trafficking, and counterfeiting.

LO6- Understand the economics of drug trafficking, types and methods of drug smuggling, the effects of prohibition on corruption and organized crime, the business and major routes of illegal substances such as Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent.

LO7- Understand and able to think critically on different parts the statutes and laws enacted to respond different types of organized crime.

LO8- Understand the restraint on organized crime law enforcement. The types and roles of federal and international agencies in countering organized crime.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Analysis of crime problems of an organized nature; economic impact upon society; laws regulating organized crime; investigation techniques.

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Given that this is a fully online course; you cannot attend class in a traditional sense. However, students are expected to log into the class at the earliest opportunity to check the class web site every day for announcements. Quizzes are a required part of class participation.

WEEKLY QUIZZES (15 POINTS EACH)

Every week, you will take **a total of 14 quizzes** to measure the knowledge of the required readings. Each quiz will worth **15 points**. The questions will be posted on Friday 1:00 pm and due date will be Sunday 11:59 pm every week.

MIDTERM EXAM (90 POINTS)

Following the initial eight-week period, a comprehensive **midterm exam** will be administered. This assessment, drawing questions from both assigned readings and supplemental materials provided by the professor, is a multiple-choice format and is worth a total of **90 points**. Please note that no makeup exams will be offered for this assessment.

FINAL EXAM (100 POINTS)

Upon completion of the initial 16-week period, a comprehensive final exam will be administered. This assessment, drawing questions from both assigned readings and supplemental materials provided by the professor, is a multiple-choice format and is worth a total of **100 points**. Please note that no makeup exams will be offered for this assessment.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

Here are some recommended statements faculty might adapt for their syllabi: https://ctl.utexas.edu/chatgpt-and-generative-ai-tools-sample-syllabus-policy-statements. Review the entire AI Policy here.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct. Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found in the University website.

Sul Ross State University and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context.

Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, and falsifying academic records. In addition,

academic dishonesty can include both actions and omissions to act about academic exercises and activities. Cheating is defined here as the obtaining of information (electronic or otherwise) during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, notes, or other sources of information prior to or during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, the removal of faculty examination materials, the alteration of documents or records, or actions identifiable as occurring with the intent to defraud or use under false pretenses. Collusion is defined here as helping other students engage in acts of academic dishonesty, whether the student involved obtains any direct academic advantage from these acts. Plagiarism is defined here as the submission of the ideas, words, or artistic productions of another, without giving due credit or when attempting to falsely represent them as one's own.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

APA STYLE:

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA several resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation the course academic honesty standards. See https://www.citationmachine.net/apa and https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html for help with APA.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND BLACKBOARD HELP DESK

Sul Ross State University has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Student Support Services https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services.

For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105. For Blackboard help visit https://www.sulross.edu/bb or call 432-837-8523 (M-F

09:00 am-06:00   pm). You   can   get   The   Distance   Education Handbook at https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AS AMENDED (ADA)

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Ronnie Harris, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

GRADING

There will be 1 midterm exam, 1 final exam, and weekly quizzes throughout the semester. Questions for exams and quizzes will be drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on Blackboard. The midterm exam will be worth 90 points and the final exam will be worth 100 points. There will be no makeup exam. You will have 14 quizzes for the related chapter. Each quiz will worth 15 points. The total grade will be 210 for all quizzes.

Midterm Exam	90 pts
Weekly Quizzes	210 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
Total	400 pts

Scale: (A: 400-320 B: 319-240 C: 239-160 D: 159-80 F: 79 & below)

LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	Jan 14-16	Introduction to the course content and syllabus, Introduction to organized crime, major issues	Abadinsky. Chapter 1 QUIZ-1
2	Jan 19-24	Concepts and theories of organized crime	Abadinsky. Chapter 2 QUIZ-2
3	Jan 27-31	Evolution of American Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 3 QUIZ-3
4	Feb 2-6	Italian and Albanian Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 4 QUIZ-4
5	Feb 9-13	Latin American Criminal Organizations, Terrorist Designation of Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 5 QUIZ-5
6	Feb 16-20	Russian Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 6 QUIZ-6
7	Feb 23-27	Asian Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 7 QUIZ-7
8	**March 2-6**		**MIDTERM EXAM**
Spring Break March 9-13			
10	March 16-20	African Organized Crime Groups	Abadinsky. Chapter 8 QUZ-8
11	March 23-27	Motorcycle Groups and Organized Crime	Abadinsky. Chapter 9 QUZ-9

12	March 30-April 3	Illegal Goods and Services	Abadinsky. Chapter 10 QUIZ-10
13	April 6-10	Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking	Abadinsky. Chapter 11 QUZ-11
14	April 13-17	Organized Crime in Labor, Business, and Money Laundering	Abadinsky. Chapter 12 QUIZ-12
15	April 13-17	Organized Crime Statutes	Abadinsky. Chapter 13 QUIZ-13
16	April 20-24	Investigating and Prosecuting of Organized Crime	Abadinsky. Chapter 14 QUIZ-14
	May 1-6		**FINAL EXAM**

END OF COURSE EVALUATIONS:
Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.

PROFESSOR'S STATEMENT

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to contact and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Wish you a successful and fruitful year! Good luck!