Course Information:
3 Credit Hours
Online

Professor Information:  Teaching Assistant Information:
Dr. Scott H. Belshaw  Michelle Hassell
Office: Chilton Hall #273E  Office: Chilton Hall #265
Telephone: (940) 565-4591  Email: Michelle.Hassell@unt.edu
Email: Scott.Belshaw@unt.edu  Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will provide an overview of Organized Crime and examine the evolution of Organized Crime and its impact on Investigative Strategies and Law Enforcement. The course objectives include review of the criminological theories of what causes Organized Crime and will look at the various ethnic and nationalistic Organized Crime groups in operation in the USA and internationally. A lot of this course will focus on organized crime in Las Vegas, New York and Chicago. We will explore the major laws and statutes used to combat Organized Crime and will review how the intelligence functions can aid in the combat of it.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1) To explain what constitutes organized criminal activity and its relationship to globalization and transnational criminal enterprises.
2) To recognize the difference between the Sicilian and Italian-American Mafias.
3) To outline and discuss the impact of failed states, civil war, and corruption on OC. 4) To compare and contrast the various forms of organized crime in the United States and around the world.
5) To describe how global OC groups have adapted to the 21st century through the adoption of various new technologies.
6) To summarize the techniques and strategies that have been developed to combat organized crime.

**COURSE NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary.

The announcement board in Blackboard will be used for primary communication to the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements section frequently.

Please send questions regarding the class to Michelle at Michelle.Hassell@unt.edu or to myself at Scott.Belshaw@unt.edu. Do not email me through Blackboard. You can expect a response from one of use within 24-hours. With that said, if I do receive several emails regarding a common topic, an announcement will be posted or a mass email will be sent addressing the issue instead of responding to each individual email.

It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Blackboard Learn. Please see Blackboard Learn: Getting Started under the “Start Here” link for further information on system requirements.

Utilizing a compatible computer system is especially critical during examination times. I would recommend that you take your exams on the UNT campus if possible. If that is not possible, I would recommend you avoid waiting until the last minute to take your exam in case problems arise.

For connection/browser issues or questions regarding how to work Blackboard, please contact the UNT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

The assigned texts listed below are required for all students enrolled in this class. Reading assignments are noted in the course calendar. All students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the date specified in the course calendar. The assigned readings will serve as a foundation for the discussion of issues in class as well as examination material.

**Required Textbooks:**


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The following section lists the required components of this course as well as the points that may be earned toward the final course grade for each component.

Plagiarism will be dealt with harshly. If a student is caught and plagiarized parts or all of an assignment in the course they will receive a zero for the assignment and may receive a failing grade for the semester. If you have any concerns check with the professor.

Readings:

Students should follow the schedule of reading assignments found on the course calendar. In addition to the required texts, the course will utilize video presentations, additional handouts, and guest lectures that concern issues pertinent to the study of organized crime. If a student misses a class it is their responsibility to get the missed readings. Information from all sources (textbook, lectures, video presentations, handouts, guest speakers) may be included on course examinations. I understand that you are assigned a lot of reading material, however all of this material is beneficial for achieving the objectives of the class. The supplemental readings will be given out to the students by the professor. Failure to be prepared can go against your participation grade and not adequately prepare you for the examinations.

Examinations:

There will be 2 exams that will be given at various intervals throughout the course. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions. Note that any material covered in the textbook, discussions, or any supplemental material (such as extra assigned readings, in class movies, etc.) is “fair game”. Each examination will remain open from Saturday morning at 12:00 a.m. until the following Friday night at 11:59 p.m.

• Midterm Exam: Opens October 10, 2015; Due by October 16, 2015
• Final Exam: Opens December 5, 2015; Due by December 11, 2015

Blackboard Discussions/Assignments/Activities:

Each week you will be required to complete a discussion board assignment. In order to receive full credit, each of you will be required to make at least four substantive comments in the discussion forum. The instructor will propose a question or dilemma and the student must answer the question and make 3 more comments on other students’ discussion posts. To earn points such comments must be more than trivial and in fact substantial and substantive (think of
these as the discussion you would engage in if we had an on campus class). Discussion board contributions are worth 30 points total. Each discussion board will remain open from Saturday morning at 12:00 a.m. until the following Friday night at 11:59 p.m. If you fail to complete ALL of the discussions or assignments the professor reserves the right to drop your final grade a letter grade at the end of the semester.

Lackadaisical discussions will result in a loss of points for Blackboard discussions.

**Research Paper:**
The purpose of this paper is to identify a topic/issue you are interested in. This paper will consist of a 5 page paper (Not including cover sheet and references) over a topic that you may pick. It MUST have something to do with organized crime and this course. The paper will be double spaced and in APA (American Psychological Association) format. The paper will include a minimum of five scholarly references obtained from scholarly journals located in the UNT library. The paper will be graded on content, organization, and English usage (including citations for references). Papers should be word processed, double-spaced in 12-point, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right, you will need to change this by going to the File menu, then to Page set-up). Papers should also include citations and a reference page completed using APA citation style. If you need information on APA citation style please see Michelle as soon as possible. Do not cut and paste any material from the internet and count it as your own work. This is plagiarism. You will receive a zero for this assignment and possibly an F for the course. This is at the SOLE discretion of the professor. Do not do it.

Papers are Due December 4th.

**Online Presentation:**
Each student is required to present their research paper in a recorded format and upload it to blackboard. The student will spend a minimum of 10 minutes explaining their research paper and predicting any questions that might arise and answering them. It is up to the student to make sure that all students can see the upload. If the student is having trouble with this, please contact the help desk to assist.

If you do not have this capability please notify the instructor or graduate assistant and they will be happy to assist you in getting to a library or area where you will be able to record this (Also, it is 2015… I am betting everyone has access to this). All students will be required as part of the discussion to make comments on your presentation.

This will be due on Nov. 25. No late submissions will be accepted!!!
Makeup Policy:

There are no make-up tests/quizzes/assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule.

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of a hospitalization or emergency and I am contacted BEFORE THE EXAM BY EMAIL. Your doctor saying you are sick or you feeling sick is NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. All makeup examinations will be full essay and will be administered on a date at my discretion. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE IF YOU MISS THE EXAM!

GRADE BREAKDOWN: Grades are based on your earned point totals for the semester.

Midterm Exam-----------------------------25%
Final Exam-------------------------------25%
Research Paper--------------------------20%
Online Presentation-------------------10%
Participation/Discussions-------------20%
Total------------------------------------100%

A—100% -90%
B—80%-89%
C—70%-79%
D—69%-60%
F—59% and below

Fall 2015 Course Calendar: Online Lecture, Discussion and Reading Schedule*

Week 1: Introduction to Organized Crime
08/24—08/28 Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 1;
Assignment(s): Zip Code Survey, Discussion Forum
Due by: 08/28
Week 2:  Development of Organized Crime in the United States
08/29—09/04  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 2;  Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 09/04

Week 3:  The American Mafia
09/05—09/11  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 3; Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 09/11

Week 4:  Explaining Organized Crime
09/12—09/18  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 4  
              Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 09/18

Week 5:  Italian Organized Crime and the Albanian Connection
09/19—09/25  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 5;  Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 09/25

Week 6:  Latin American Organized Crime
09/26—10/02  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 6;  Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 10/02

Week 7:  Black Organized Crime
10/03—10/09  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 7;  Assignment(s): Discussion Forum  
              Due by: 10/09
Week 8:  Asian Organized Crime
10/10—10/16  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 8; Start Reading Maceo Book
Assignment(s): Midterm Exam
**Due by: 10/16**

Week 9:  Russian Organized Crime
10/17—10/23  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 9; Read Maceo Book
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum
**Due by: 10/23**

Week 10:  Outlaw Motorcycle Club
10/24—10/30  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 10; Finish Reading Maceo Book
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum
**Due: 10/30**

Week 11:  “Goods and Services”: Gambling, Loansharking, Theft, Fencing, Sex, Trafficking in Persons, Arms
10/31—11/06  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 11;
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum
**Due: 11/06**

Week 12:  Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking
11/07—11/13  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 12
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum
**Due: 11/13**

Week 13:  Organized Crime in Labor, Business, and Money Laundering
11/14—11/20  Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 13; Begin Surviving the Mob
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum
Due: 11/20

Week 14: Organized Crime: Statutes
11/21—11/27 Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 14; Surviving the Mob
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum

Due: 11/27; Presentation, 11/25

Week 15: Organized Crime: Law Enforcement
11/28—12/04 Readings: Abadinsky, Chapter 15; Finish Surviving the Mob
Assignment(s): Discussion Forum and Research paper

Due: 12/04 (Research Paper Due!)

Week 16: Final Exam!!!
12/05—12/11 Readings: No reading assignments
Assignment(s): Final Exam

Due: 12/11

*This reading schedule includes any University holidays. Even if we do not have class you will be still responsible for the material covered.

PARTICIPATION, PREPARATION AND BEHAVIOR:
To be successful at learning and understanding the material in this class, it is essential that you read and complete the assigned material and engage in thoughtful online discussions. Your attendance and active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions will be taken into account at all times during the semester.

An online classroom, at least during times of online discussion, is a place to express ideas, opinions, and engage in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times or their status in the course will be examined. In sum, simply be appropriate during online interactions. Each student brings unique insight and perspectives, and that can make for a very interesting and lively discussion forum, but just please be appropriate and respectful of others. Please review the undergraduate catalog concerning conduct which adversely affects the university community.

Miscellaneous:
The material posted online is my personal intellectual property or that of the University of North Texas. You may not utilize the material for other than class purposes.

SYLLABUS CHANGES:
I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments in class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student’s responsibility to check announcements so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
It is expected that each student will do his/her own work. Cheating, including plagiarism, on any assignment may result in a zero for the semester. This is criminal justice, how could anyone even contemplate cheating when you are studying to work in a system based on trust and honor? With that said, I reserve the right to pursue the formal channels for plagiarism/cheating set down in the UNT Policy Manual.

All students are urged to read the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline located in the UNT Policy Manual (Section 5.2). Academic dishonesty will be handled on a casebycase basis with the final disposition being at the discretion of the professor.

A GRADE OF “INCOMPLETE”
I – Incomplete; a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course; (2) has justifiable reason (medical or other emergency circumstance) why the work cannot be completed on a schedule; and (3) arranges with the professor before the end of the semester to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the professor must list on the grade sheet. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course). If you do not meet the specifications for this grade, you will need to see the Registrar’s Office about resigning from the University.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:
My lectures are protected by state and common law and by applicable federal copyright laws. You are not authorized to make any commercial use of them without express prior permission from myself. Persons who do make use of my lecture notes for commercial purposes (i.e. sell your class notes to an internet site or other commercially-related business) will be held legally liable.
ODA STATEMENT:
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

I will make every attempt possible to accommodate anyone with a documented disability. Please let me know in advance of exams or other class requirements so I have enough time to send exams or other materials to ODA. You must provide me with the appropriate exam request forms from ODA prior to the exam in order to take the exam at ODA.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:

Federal Regulation

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance
To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

GRADES:
Every semester, at least a couple of students come to my office around the end of the semester asking, “What can I do to raise my grade?” My policy and statement concerning that question is this:

• If you focus on learning and being responsible (i.e., keeping up with assignments, completing extra credit when given, etc.), your final grade will reflect this.

• I do not give individual extra credit. If and when I offer an extra credit assignment it will be offered to the entire class. I suggest you take advantage of extra credit whenever it is offered.

• Borderline grades will be evaluated on a case by case basis and my policy is this: if a student is 1 percentage points away from the next letter grade (borderline grade), has completed all extra credit opportunities, and has not missed more than the allotted number of absences, I will bump them to the next letter grade. I will not raise any grades that are not borderline grades. Not all borderline grades will be raised. Grades are not based on how much I like a person. They are based on work and performance, period. ALL GRADES ARE FINAL AFTER ENTERED IN THE COMPUTER. The final decision on whether or not to raise a grade is solely at the discretion of the professor. Do not email me to change your grade because you did not like the grade you earned!

FINAL POINTS:
Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade. I think
you will find me to be very approachable and eager to address any problems with you in a professional manner.

• To do well in this class the student must complete all assigned readings prior to that class date. (READ!, READ!!, READ!!) This will allow for a better discussion and understanding of the material. I take test questions from the book and discussions!!

• DO NOT highlight and copy text from the internet and turn it in as your own work. It is easy for me to catch you doing this. I type a sentence into Google or Yahoo and it will pull up the entire text. You will not receive a good grade for doing this!! This includes when doing blackboard assignments.

• If you are having academic or even a personal problems please feel free to talk to me. I am here to help. I might understand more than you think!

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as highly flexible. I am not interested in covering the material as fast as possible simply for the sake of covering it. Rather, I want to cover the material that we do cover thoroughly, and at a pace that is conducive to learning the material instead of simply covering the material. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings irrespective of this schedule, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the calendar throughout the course of the semester (i.e. video presentations and/or handouts). It will be your responsibility to keep up with these as well.