



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL  
and CONTINUING STUDIES

## IAS 5383-491: Political Economy of the Underworld: Organized Crime and Conflict

### Course Description:

Since the end of the Cold War, organized crime has expanded into a global presence that continues to fuel instability, corruption and violent extremism in many parts of the world. These developments have not always been recognized by scholars in political science and international relations, who tend to focus their research on the actions of established nation-states instead of sub state actors. But many contemporary conflicts cannot be understood without assessing the subterranean presence of organized crime groups as agents of instability, arms trafficking, resource extraction and informal governance. This class will explore the presence of organized crime in international political economy and armed conflict since the 1990s. Areas to be covered include: 1) the evolutionary origins of organized crime; 2) organized crime as a factor in contemporary conflicts in Europe and Latin America.

### Course Dates:

December 9 – 23, 2019

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 10, 2019

### Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at [aponline@ou.edu](mailto:aponline@ou.edu)

### Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Tassie Katherine Hirschfeld  
Mailing Address: Department of Anthropology  
Email Address: [tkhirschfeld@ou.edu](mailto:tkhirschfeld@ou.edu)  
Telephone Number: 405 325 7462  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students and other methods by arrangement.

### Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact [apsyllabi@ou.edu](mailto:apsyllabi@ou.edu). Text prices are available online

1. Diego Gambetta (1996) *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*
2. Ioan Grillo (2014) *Gangster Warlords: Drug dollars, Killing Fields and the new Politics of Latin America*. Bloomsbury Press.
3. Selection of articles, films, and book chapters posted on Canvas

**OU Email:**

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

**Course Objectives:**

In this class students will learn:

1. An expanded anthropological definition of organized crime that moves beyond the “alien conspiracy” theme commonly found in criminology textbooks;
2. How organized crime conflicts are different from conflicts between nation-states;
3. The importance of considering underworld dynamics in assessing the origins of upper world conflicts;
4. Methods for incorporating organized crime into studies of instability and international relations.

**Course Outline:****Module 1: What is Organized Crime? December 9-12**

Assignments:

2 discussion boards

- a. introductions
- b. thinking about organized crime

1 short paper: defining organized crime due on or before December 15th at 11 pm.

research paper topic selection

Readings:

Diego Gambetta *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*.

Von Lampe 2016 *Organized Crime: Analyzing Illegal Activities, Criminal Structures and Extra-Legal Governance*, chapters 1-8 (available on Canvas)

Additional chapters and articles selected by the instructor.

**Module 2: Organized Crime and Conflict December 13-17**

Assignments:

2 discussion boards

- a. Organized crime and governance
- b. Organized crime and territoriality

1 short paper: organized crime and conflict due December 21 at 11 pm.

research paper abstract and preliminary bibliography

Readings:

Ioan Grillo (2016) *Gangster Warlords: Drug Dollars, Killing Fields, and the New Politics of Latin America*

Excerpt from Sarah Chayes 2015 *Thieves of State* (available on Canvas)

Shima Keene 2018 *Silent Partners: Organized Crime, Irregular Groups and Nation-States. US Army War College*. (available on Canvas)

Additional chapters and articles selected by the instructor

**Module 3: The Future of Organized Crime and Conflict December 18-23**

Assignments:

Case study presentation due 23 at 11 pm

Discussion board: presentation feedback and discussion

Research paper draft (encouraged but not required)

Readings:

Gilman, Nils 2013 *The Twin Insurgency. The American Interest*.

Robert Bunker and Pamela Ligouri Bunker 2015 Dark Renaissance—Crime, Corruption and Global Class Warfare. In, *Global Criminal and Sovereign Free Economies and the Demise of the Western Democracies: Dark Renaissance*. London: Routledge, pp. 1-15

Galeotti, Mark 2015 Kleptocracies, Warlords and Mafias in Uniform. In, *Global Criminal and Sovereign Free Economies and the Demise of the Western Democracies: Dark Renaissance*. London: Routledge, pp. 16-28.

Bunker, Robert 2015 Public Looting for Private Gain: Predatory Capitalism, MNCs and Global Elites and Plutocratic Insurgency. In, *Global Criminal and Sovereign Free Economies and the Demise of the Western Democracies: Dark Renaissance*. London: Routledge, pp. 134-162.

Williams, Phil 2003 New Context, Smart Enemies. In, *Non-State Threats and Future Wars*, Robert Bunker, ed. Portland, Oregon: Frank Cass, pp. vi-xiii.

Robb, John 2013 Brave New War: The Next Stage of Terrorism and the End of Globalization. In, *Deviant Globalization: Black Market Economy in the 21st Century*, Nils Gilman, Jesse Goldhammer and Seven Weber, eds. New York: Continuum International, pp. 261-293.

Sullivan, John and Bunker, Robert 2003 Drug Cartels, Street Gangs and Warlords. In, Williams, Phil 2003 New Context, Smart Enemies. In, *Non-State Threats and Future Wars*, Robert Bunker, ed. Portland, Oregon: Frank Cass, pp. 40-53.

**Final papers due EITHER January 14th 2020, (for students needing early grades) or January 24th 2020.**

**Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Pre class questionnaire	50
Class discussions/participation	100
2 short papers	300 (150 each)
Research paper topic selection	50
Research paper abstract and bibliography	50
Case study presentation and resources	150
Final paper	300
Total	1000

**Pre-class questionnaire**

The pre-class questionnaire will be a short set of questions completed on Canvas before the official start of class. The goal of the questionnaire is to provide more background about yourself and your goals to the instructor before the start of class.

**Class discussions/participation**

This is an on line class, so your participation is very important. Participation refers to engaging in class discussions, engagement with course materials, and good on line citizenship with respect to your fellow students. One of the key goals of the class is to foster collaboration between students, and to share scholarly resources.

**Short Papers**

The two short papers are 4-6 page reading responses that are intended to facilitate synthesis of readings and other course materials. The first paper will require students to construct a definition of organized crime based on critical reading of various sources from criminology, international relations and other fields. The second short paper will require students to explore the intersection of organized crime and governance, especially in fragile states or conflict zones. A formal assignment sheet will be posted on Canvas.

## **Research Paper**

The research paper will require students to explore the role of organized crime in the context of a specific armed conflict. The paper should be informed by scholarly research that bridges multiple academic disciplines. Students should consult with the instructor about topic selection and the research process. Students are encouraged (but not required) to turn in an early paper draft for feedback before the final paper deadline. A formal assignment sheet will be posted on Canvas.

## **Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

## **Miscellaneous policies**

### **Citations and Academic Integrity**

In your written work, make sure you cite all sources appropriately in the anthropological citation style (author, date), with a bibliography at the end in your essay. Failure to do so may be regarded as plagiarism, and you may fail the assignment as a result. Academic misconduct on course work may result in a failing grade for this class. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with the definitions, policies, and procedures concerning academic misconduct. You can find a complete list of policies here: <http://integrity.ou.edu>.

### **Papers**

Please do not submit written work by e-mail. All papers and assignments should be submitted on Canvas.

### **Policy for Late Work:**

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

### **Attendance Policy:**

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

### **Incomplete Grade Policy:**

A grade of "I" is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a "Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade" form. An "I" can never be used in lieu of an "F" nor can an "I" be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

### **Technical Support Information:**

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

**Note:** Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct**

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://integrity.ou.edu/students\\_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

### **Accommodation Statement**

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

### **Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

### **Title IX Resources**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu) or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

### **Course Policies**

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

## INSTRUCTOR VITA

**Dr. Tassie Katherine Hirschfeld**

### Education

PhD Anthropology Emory University 2001

### Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 2014
- Associate Professor, Anthropology University of Oklahoma

### Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

CAS 5970 Biosecurity and Emerging Pathogens

### Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Medical Anthropology
- Disease ecology
- Post-socialism
- Public health

### Selected Publications

#### Books

- 2015 *Gangster-States: Organized Crime, Kleptocracy, Collapse*. Palgrave MacMillan
- 2007 *Health, Politics and Revolution in Cuba since 1898*. Transaction Press.

#### Selected Articles

- “Failing States as Epidemiological Risk Zones: Implications for Global Health Security.” *Health Security*.
- Rethinking Structural Violence. *Society* 2017.
- Reassessing the Cuban Health Care System: A Qualitative Critique. *Cuban Affairs*. 2007.
- Rules of the Underworld. *Sapiens*.

### Representative Honors and Awards Received

Marjorie Shostak Award for Ethnographic Writing, Emory University

### Major Professional Affiliations

- American Anthropological Association
- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
- Society for Medical Anthropology