IAS 5383-103: 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 post-Soviet conflicts; 3) organized crime and globalization; 4) interdisciplinary research methods for assessing the role of organized crime in emerging conflict zones

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: May 13 – 19, 2019
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 14, 2019

Site Director:
Email: apwashington@ou.edu, Phone: 703-418-4800.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Tassie Katherine Hirschfeld
Mailing Address: Dept. of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405 325 7462
Email Address: tkhirschfeld@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.
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
Day 1: 6 pm -9:30 pm Introductions, definitions, key concepts
Day 2: 6-9:30 Lectures, discussion, panel discussion
Day 3: 6-9:30 lectures, panel discussion
Day 4: 6-9:30 Lectures, panel discussion
Day 5: 8-4:30 Student presentations, discussion
Day 6: 8-noon Student presentations, final discussion

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Pre-Class Assignments

Pre-class questionnaire (5%)
The pre-class questionnaire will be a set of questions designed to assess students; background knowledge prior to the beginning of class. This will help the instructor tailor teaching materials specifically for each class.

Pre-Class Writing Assignment (15%)
The pre-class writing assignment will be a 4-5 response paper for Diego Gambetta’s *The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection*.

Paper Topic Selection (5%)
Students will communicate with the instructor before the first day of class to strategize paper topics and begin the research process.

In class Assignments

Attendance and Participation 20%
This is based on, not only attending each seminar, but the quality of your contribution to the course discussion.

Panel Presentation (10%)
The panel presentation will be an in-class discussion led by students and focused on the dynamics of organized crime and conflict in a specific geographic region. Each student will select a book from a list provided by the instructor and present a short summary of the book to the other panelists and to the class. The panel will form the basis of a class discussion of organized crime and conflict within and between specific regions. A preliminary list of regions includes: 1) MENA; 2) Mexico and Central America; 3) Russia and post-Soviet states, and 4) organized crime and globalization. Students are welcome to suggest additional texts or regions.

Case Study Presentation (20%)
The case study presentation will be a 10-15-minute overview of each students’ preliminary research findings
Post-Class Assignment

Research Paper (25%)
Students will write a 15-25-page research paper exploring the role of organized crime in specific conflicts since the 1990s. Topics will be selected after consultation with the instructor and will form the basis of the case study presentations on the last days of class. Students will be encouraged to begin research early so that they are prepared to present preliminary findings during the final class meetings.

Note: Please do not submit written work by e-mail. All papers and assignments should be submitted 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.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

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 make 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

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 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/eeo.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. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

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

Selected Articles
- 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