



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5383-102: 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.

Class Dates and Format Information:

Dates: July 16 – 18 & 23 – 25, 2021
Format: Hybrid; course will be held via Canvas and Zoom
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: June 17, 2021

Site Director and Information for VA Benefits:

Location: 3281 NW Koehler Loop, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Email: apftsill@ou.edu. Phone: (580) 355-1974.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Dr. Tassie Katherine Hirschfeld
Mailing Address: Department of Anthropology
University of Oklahoma
Telephone Number: (405) 642-7059 (cell)
Email Address: tkhirschfeld@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail and Zoom to students before and after the official start date. Zoom office hours will be held by appointment. Students are encouraged to communicate regularly with the professor.

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. Text prices are available online

1. Diego Gambetta (1996) *The Sicilian Mafia*
2. Danilo Mandic (2020) *Gangsters and Other Statesmen*.
3. 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.

Supplemental Articles (posted on Canvas)

Course Breakdown:

Course Outline	Content	Assignments	Due Dates	Percentage of grade
MODULE 1: Pre-Class Module	Supplemental lectures and readings	Pre-class questionnaire Pre-class reading response	Pre class questionnaire and reading response due July 16th	Pre class assignments: questionnaire: 5% reading response: 10%
MODULE 2: Core Concepts	Introduction to the class; Defining Organized Crime; Organized Crime During the Cold War	Online discussions Midterm essay Research paper topic selection	Midterm essay due by July 28th Research paper topic selection due July 28th	Midterm essay: 20% Discussion participation 20% Research paper topic selection: 5%
MODULE 3: Organized Crime and State Building after the Cold War	Case studies may include: The Caucasus; Central Asia, Cuba; Venezuela;	Online discussions Research paper abstract and preliminary bibliography	Research paper abstract and preliminary bibliography due August 2nd	Research paper abstract and bibliography: 10%
MODULE 4: post class module	NA	Final research paper	Final paper due August 11th	Final paper: 30%

Pre-Class Assignments

There will be two pre-class assignments: completion of a short (4-5 page) reading response paper and a short pre-class questionnaire. The paper will be a reading response for either of the two assigned class books: Diego Gambetta's *The Sicilian Mafia* or Danilo Mandic's *Gangsters and Other Statesmen*.

An assignment sheet and grading rubric for the paper will be posted on Canvas.

In Class Assignments

Discussion Participation

Students will participate in three discussion boards. Discussion posts should be thoughtful, informed responses to the discussion questions. In addition to generating posts, students should also respond to other posts. All discussions will be moderated by the instructor.

Midterm Essay

The midterm essay will be a 4-5 page response to an essay question posted on Canvas. The essay will be open book and open notes. Students will be encouraged to synthesize material from different readings and other class materials. An assignment sheet with grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

Research Paper Topic Selection

Students are encouraged to select research paper topics in consultation with the instructor.

Research Paper Abstract and Bibliography

The research paper abstract should be a short, concise 1-2 paragraph statement summarizing the proposed research and its relevance to the class. The abstract should include a preliminary bibliography with short annotations for each source.

Final Paper

The final paper should be a 15-20 page analysis exploring the intersection of organized crime and politics in a specific locale. An assignment sheet with grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

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. The Academic Misconduct Code is printed with the Student code and is available on the web at <http://www.ou.edu/provost>

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 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

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/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. 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
- Professor, Department of Anthropology University of Oklahoma
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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

Publications

Books

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

Recent Articles

*2019 Insurgent Microbes: Theorizing Global Health in the Anthropocene. *Anthropocene Review*.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

Marjorie Shostak Award for Ethnographic Writing, Emory University

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Anthropological Association
- Association for the Study of Nationalities
- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy
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