

Transnational Crime and Justice

Study Abroad May-June, 2025

(ICJ706 Transnational Crime and POL325, Transnational Crime)

Combined Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION ICJ706 (from Graduate Bulletin)

This course examines current issues surrounding the topic of transnational crime and its prevention and control. The focus is on established and emerging phenomena with respect to illegal cross-border trade such as the trafficking in drugs, arms, and humans; transnational predatory crimes such as cross-border serial burglary; networks of offenders involved in these crimes and their mobility; and factors that facilitate and shape transnational crime, including international travel, trade, communication and migration. The course also examines the public and private sector responses to crime that transcends international borders.

COURSE DESCRIPTION POL325 (from Undergraduate Bulletin)

Transnational crime has become one of the major concerns for governments and international organizations as they work to stem the illicit flows of drugs and firearms, control the trade in human beings and wildlife products, and deal with money laundering, counterfeiting, and other cross-border offences. This course covers the literature on transnational crime and transnational criminal law, inviting students to examine how crime has altered state sovereignty, posed challenges to governance, and changed conceptions of human rights and justice. Students will also learn about the mechanisms of state cooperation with respect to transnational crimes, such as mutual legal assistance and extradition, and will study the workings of relevant international organizations and agencies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The readings and assignments in these courses are designed to help students to:

- explain the restraints and opportunities for crime provided by the current nature of international borders
- distinguish the various ways in which criminal activities and criminal structures transcend international borders
- critically assess the validity and reliability of data on transnational crime
- identify the major elements of the legal and institutional framework for international cooperation in combating transnational crime and assess their impact on the control of transnational crime

- describe private sector, public private and civil society responses to transnational crime and identify best practices in this field

Students will attend the same lectures, institutional visits and field trips, but assignments will differ for graduate students vs. undergraduate students and graduate students will be held to a higher standard in their assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS

No text is required. Each week students will be required to read institutional reports, journal articles and/or book chapters. Institutional reports can be found on the internet. All journal articles can be found online via the JJ library databases. Book chapters will be available on Brightspace.

REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 30% of class time will result in 0% points for the attendance grade. Students must adhere to the rules of UNOV while on their premises. If their UNOV grounds pass is revoked for rule violation, they will receive an F for the course.

2. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and comment on the work of their peers. Peer criticism, however, should be expressed in a respectful way that recognizes and appreciates the intellectual effort undertaken. All assigned readings are to be completed before class. Students are required to bring the assigned reading(s) to class together with their reading notes. In addition to the assigned readings, students will be asked to conduct a substantial amount of continuous independent reading on their research topics.

Merely attending a class does not count toward your class participation grade. Students should prepare knowledgeable, informed questions for our guest speakers and institutional site visits and be prepared to participate actively in any group exercise.

3. READING QUESTIONS

Students will be assigned reading questions on Brightspace that are designed to incentivize and reward their reading. Each reading question will have a minimum word count and address the reading assigned. Students should ensure to produce their own work, not that of others or of generative AI.

4. PROJECTS/CASE BRIEFS

The institutions hosting our site visits, including UNODC, will be asked to provide brief projects that students can choose from, to contribute to the work of the institution. (In the past, students were asked to case briefs on real-life legal case relevant for the theme of the course and the briefs were submitted to the UNODC SHERLOC team and will be considered for publication in the [SHERLOC Case Law Database](#).)

ASSESSMENT

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

	ASSIGNMENT	% of final grade, undergraduate	% of final grade, graduate students
1.	Attendance	10%	10
2.	Class participation	10%	10
3.	Reading questions	20%	20
4.	Research Paper		30
5.	Diary	35%	10
6.	Applied Project/Case briefs	25%	20

Grading will follow the standards of the College. The table below indicates the index values and the suggested numerical values as a guide for students to understand their grades:

Grade points:	93.0-100.0 =	A
	90.0-92.9 =	A-
	87.1-89.9 =	B+
	83.0-87.0 =	B
	80.0-82.9 =	B-
	77.1-79.9 =	C+
	73.0-77.0 =	C
	70.0-72.9 =	C-
	67.1-69.9 =	D+
	63.0-67.0 =	D
	60.0-62.9 =	D-
	below 60.0 =	F

The grades are officially defined as follows:
A, A- Excellent performance
B+, B, B- Very good performance
C+, C, C- Satisfactory performance
D+, D, D- Passing performance
F Below basic performance

HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must be submitted as a MS Word (.doc or .docx) files on Brightspace.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% of a grade for every day they are turned in late. Should you need an extension, talk to the instructor in advance. No extensions will be given after the due date.

CITATION STYLE

The American Psychological Association (APA) citation style must be used for all written assignments. Further details about this citation style can be found in the APA Style Manual available here:

<http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/c.php?g=288322&p=1922429>

THE CUNY POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited at The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, which may include failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

I. **Cheating** is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise.

The following are some examples of cheating, but by no means is the list exhaustive:

- Copying from another student during an examination or allowing another to copy your work.
- Unauthorized collaboration on a take-home assignment or examination.
- Using notes during a closed book examination.
- Taking an examination for another student, or asking or allowing another student to take an examination for you.
- Changing a graded exam and returning it for more credit.
- Submitting substantial portions of the same paper to more than one course without receiving advance permission from each instructor to do so.
- Preparing answers or writing notes in a blue book (exam booklet) before an examination.
- Allowing others to research and write papers that have been assigned to you, or to do projects that have been assigned to you. This includes the use of commercial term paper services.
- Giving assistance to acts of academic misconduct/dishonesty.
- Fabricating data (all or in part).
- Submitting someone else's work as your own.
- Unauthorized use during an examination of any electronic devices such as cell phones, palm pilots, computers or other technologies to retrieve or send information.

II. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

The following are some examples of plagiarism, but by no means is the list exhaustive:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and without attributing the words to their source.
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source.
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source.
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.

Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, and "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

Be aware of self-plagiarism. Students are not allowed to submit assignments or parts of assignments for this course if they have been or are being used in other courses.

Students who are unsure they fully understand what academic integrity rules are should consult with the Alan Siegel Writing Center. Additionally, the Lloyd Sealy Library has free guides about academic standards (See *John Jay College of Criminal Justice 2024-2025 Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins for more information*)

PLAGIARISM SANCTION

The detection of intentional or unintentional plagiarism (15% or more) will cause the student to get: (a) first instance of plagiarism, an F first in the assignment; (b) second instance of plagiarism, an F in the course. In the event of each plagiarism case, the professor is required to submit an Academic Integrity Violation Form to the Office of the Provost.

WRITING QUALITY

This course requires that students to pay close attention to their writing skills. Students are highly encouraged to copy-edit their writing assignments before submission.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

Students must bring their own laptops to Vienna.

ADVISING

The current director of the MA program in International Crime and Justice is Prof. Arsovska (jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu). The director of the BA program in International Criminal Justice is Prof. Michel-Luviano (vmichel@jjay.cuny.edu). Your study abroad director is the Deputy Director of the MA Program in International Crime and Justice and former director of the BA program in International Criminal Justice and will be able handle most program-related queries, but program authority rests with the above two directors.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

Students must bring their own laptops to class.

MODULES

- Module 1¹ - Definition of Organized Crime
- Module 2 - Organizing the Commission of Crimes
- Module 3 - Criminalization of Organized Crime Product Markets: Provision of Illicit Goods and Services
- Module 4 - Use of Technology in Organized Crime
- Module 5 - Conceptualizing and Measuring Organized Crime
- Module 6 - Causes and Facilitating Factors of Organized Crime
- Module 7 - Structure of Organized Criminal Groups
- Module 8 - Law enforcement Tools and Law Enforcement Cooperation
- Module 9 - Prosecution Strategies
- Module 10 - Sentencing and Confiscation in Organized Crime
- Module 11 - International Cooperation to Combat Transnational Organized Crime
- Module 12 - Infiltration of Organized Crime in Business and Government

- Module 13 – Gender and Organized Crime
- Module 14 – Context-Specific Case Studies
- Module 15 - Prevention and Strategies against Organized Crime

¹ Students will complete E4J modules on this topic. They will be available on Brightspace.

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

- Albanese, J. (2015). *Organized Crime: From the Mob to Transnational Organized Crime*. Routledge.
- Allum, F. & Gilmour, S. (2018). Policing organized crime: legal norms in the national and international context. In *Comparative Policing from a Legal Perspective* (pp. 189–206). Edward Elgar Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781785369117.00018>
- Arsovska, J. (2014). The “G-local” Dimension of Albanian Organized Crime: Mafias, Strategic Migration and State Repression. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 20(2), 205–223.
- Baarda, C. S. (2016). Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation from Nigeria into Western Europe: The Role of Voodoo Rituals in the Functioning of a Criminal Network. *European Journal of Criminology*, 13(2), 257–273.
- Barberet, R. (2014). Measuring and researching transnational crime. In P. Reichel and J.S. Albanese (Eds.), *Handbook of transnational crime and justice*, second edition. Sage Publications
- Barberet, R. (2014). *Women, crime and criminal justice: A global enquiry*. Routledge.
- Basra, R., Neumann, P., and Brunner, C. (2016). Criminal Pasts, Terrorist Futures: European Jihadists and the New Crime-Terror Nexus. London: CSR. <http://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ICSR-Report-Criminal-Pasts-Terrorist-Futures-European-Jihadists-and-the-New-Crime-Terror-Nexus.pdf>
- Campana, P. (2011). Eavesdropping on the Mob: The Functional Diversification of Mafia Activities across Territories. *European Journal of Criminology*, 8(3), 213–228.
- Campana, P., & Varese, F. (2022). Studying organized crime networks: Data sources, boundaries and the limits of structural measures. *Social networks*, 69, 149-159.
- Campana, P., Gelsthorpe, L. Choosing a Smuggler: Decision-making Amongst Migrants Smuggled to Europe. *Eur J Crim Policy Res* 27, 5–21 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10610-020-09459-y>
- Campana, P., and Varese, F. (2016). Exploitation in Human Trafficking and Smuggling. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 22(1), 89–105. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10610-015-9286-6> (JJ library)
- Caulkins, J.P., Burnett, H., & Leslie, E. (2009). How illegal drugs enter an island country: Insights from interviews with incarcerated smugglers. *Global Crime* 10(1&2), 66-93.
- Choo, K-K R., and Grabosky, P. (2014). Cybercrime. In L. Paoli (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook on Organised Crime*, pp. 482-500. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chouvy, R-A., 2013. A Typology of the Unintended Consequences of Drug Crop Reduction. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 43, 216-230.
- Copeland, C., Wallin, M., & Holt, T. J. (2019). Assessing the Practices and Products of Darkweb Firearm Vendors. *Deviant Behavior*, 41(8), 949–968. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2019.1596465>
- Dugato, M., Calderoni, F., & Campedelli, G. M. (2020). Measuring organised crime presence at the municipal level. *Social Indicators Research*, 147(1), 237-261.
- Durán-Martínez A (2017) The politics of drug violence: criminals, cops and politicians in Colombia and Mexico. Oxford University Press.
- Harrington, J. (2014). Chapter 10 “Extradition of transnational criminal” (153-167). In N. Boister and R.J. Currie (Eds.). *Routledge Handbook of Transnational Criminal Law*. Routledge.
- Hobson, C. (2014). Privatising the War on Drugs. *Third World Quarterly*, 35(8), 1441–1456.

- Holt, T. J., & Bossler, A. M. (2014). Cybercrime. Oxford Handbook (online version). Available at: <http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935383.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935383-e-002>
- Icduygu, A., & Toktas, S. (2002). How do smuggling and trafficking operate via irregular border crossings in the Middle East? Evidence from fieldwork in Turkey. *International Migration* 40(6), 25-52.
- INCB (2015). Precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. International Narcotics Control Board. Available at: https://www.incb.org/documents/PRECURSORS/TECHNICAL_REPORTS/2015/2015-PreAR_E.pdf
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- Kelman, J. (2015). States Can Play, Too: Constructing a Typology of State Participation in Illicit Flows. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 64(1), 37-55.
- Leroy, B. (2014). Chapter 14 “Drug Trafficking” (pp. 229-246). In N. Boister and R.J. Currie (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Transnational Criminal Law*. London: Routledge.
- Makarenko, T. (2004). The Crime-Terror Continuum: Tracing the Interplay between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism. *Global Crime*, 6(1), 129–145.
- Maras, M.-H., Arsovska, J., Wandt, A. S., Knieps, M., & Logie, K. (2024). The SECI model and darknet markets: Knowledge creation in criminal organizations and communities of practice. *European Journal of Criminology*, 21(2), 165–190. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14773708221115167>
- Maras, M.-H., & Arsovska, J. (2023). Understanding the Intersection Between Technology and Kidnapping: A Typology of Virtual Kidnapping. *International Criminology*, 3(2), 162–176. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43576-023-00091-4>
- Mendelson, S. (2005). Peacekeepers and Human Trafficking in the Balkans. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Available online at: http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/0502_barracksbrothels.pdf
- Nguyen T, Luong HT (2020) The structure of cybercrime networks: transnational computer fraud in Vietnam. *Journal of Criminal Justice* (online first)
- Obokata, W. (2014). Chapter 20 “Human Trafficking” (pp. 171-187). In N. Boister and R.J. Currie (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Transnational Criminal Law*. Routledge.
- Petrossian, G.A. The Last Fish Swimming: The Global Crime of Illegal Fishing. (2019). Global Crime and Justice Series. ABC-CLIO, LLC, Praeger Imprint.
- Pickering S, Bosworth M, Aas KF (2016) The criminology of mobility. In: Carlen P, Franca LR (eds) *Alternative Criminologies*. Routledge, pp 382–398
- Raineri, L., & Strazzari, F. (2023). The data that we do (not) have: studying drug trafficking and organised crime in Africa. *Trends in Organized Crime*, 26(4), 358-378.
- Reichel, P. & Randa, R. (2018). Transnational crime and global security. Praeger.
- Roth, M. (2014). Chapter 1 “Historical Overview of Transnational Crime” (pp. 5-22). In P. Reichel and J. Albanese (eds.). *Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice*, 2nd edn. SAGE Publications.
- Sampó, C., & Troncoso, V. (2023). Cocaine trafficking from non-traditional ports: examining the cases of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. *Trends in organized crime*, 26(3), 235-257.
- Selmini R (2020) Women in organized crime. *Crime Justice* 49(1):339–383
- Tennant, I., & Mahadevan, P. (2021). The Implementation Review Mechanism of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC): What Role for Civil Society?. *Brill Research Perspectives in Transnational Crime*, 3(2-3), 39-54. <https://doi.org/10.1163/24680931-12340015>
- Tennant, I. (2021). Fulfilling the promise of Palermo? A political history of the UN convention against transnational organized crime. *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, 2(1), 53-71.
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- Sergi, A., (2023). Organised crime and power in the modern world. In: A Research Agenda for Organised Crime. Edward Elgar Publishing. 57- 75. 9781802201352
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- UNODC (2023). Global study on homicide 2023. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/2023/Global_study_on_homicide_2023_web.pdf
- UNODC (2022). Global report on trafficking in persons. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_2022_web.pdf
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2018). Global study on smuggling of migrants. https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM_2018_web_small.pdf
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- Zabyelina, Y., and Thachuk, K. (Eds.) 2022. *The Private Sector and Organized Crime: Criminal Entrepreneurship, Illicit Profits, and Private Sector Security Governance*. Routledge.
- Zabyelina, Y., and Van Uhm, D. (Eds.) 2020. *Illegal Mining: Organized Crime, Corruption, and Ecocide in a Resource-Scarce World*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Zhang, S. X. (2022). Progress and challenges in human trafficking research: two decades after the Palermo protocol. *Journal of human trafficking*, 8(1), 4-12.