UNODC in Vienna: Transnational Crime and Justice
(POL325 The Politics of Transnational Crime)

POL325, Study Abroad 2020

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SYLLABUS

This syllabus is intended to give students guidance in what is covered during the semester and how students’ performance is evaluated. The syllabus will be followed as closely as possible. Please note that the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes in the syllabus as the course needs arise.

A copy of this syllabus and announcements of all changes therein (if any) will be available from POL325 Blackboard site (see “Information” in the navigation menu).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Transnational crime and violence have become major concerns for governments around the world as they work to stem the flow of drugs, control trade in human beings, and deal with the problem of stateless terrorism. In this course, we will study the origins and operations of international organizations, mainly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the different ways in which they influence the global response against transnational crime and terrorism.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will develop a basic understanding of the political factors that contribute to transnational organized crime, learn about the nature, characteristics, and contemporary patterns of transnational organized crime, study government policies against transnational organized crime and regional factors that affect their success/failure in different world regions. They will visit various sections of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna and will work individually and in small groups on designated tasks and topics. They will present their research outcomes in both written and oral forms. Some of the assignments will be performed in collaboration with the UNODC SHERLOC project which is an innovative initiative by the UNODC to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES

Political Science 101 and English 101 or 102.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no textbook assigned for this course. Course materials incorporate both book chapters and journal articles. The materials are available via the John Jay Library [http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/](http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **ATTENDANCE (5%)**: Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 30% of classes will result in 0% points for the attendance grade. Missing more than 50% of classes will result in a failing grade (“F”) in the course.

2. **CLASS PARTICIPATION (5%)**: All assigned readings are to be completed before class. This is a non-negotiable requisite. Attending a class does not count toward the class participation grade.

3. **QUIZZES (30%)**: There will be four (multiple choice) quizzes in the course. Quizzes will be based on the content of modules.

4. **ESSAYS (2 X 15% =30%)**: There are two required essays (1,000 words each, excluding references/bibliography).

5. **2 CASE BRIEFS (2 X 15% =30%)**: Students are asked to write two case briefs about 1,000 words each on a real-life legal case relevant for the theme of the course. The cases will be 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Module quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Essays</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 2 Case briefs</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading will follow the standards of the Department of Political Science, the College, and the University. 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

The grades are officially defined as follows:

- A, A- Excellent performance
- B+, B, B- Very good performance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.0-92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-92.9 - Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.1-89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.1-89.9 - Passing performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.0-87.0</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0-87.0 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0-82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-82.9 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.1-79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.1-79.9 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.0-77.0</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0-77.0 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0-72.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0-72.9 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.1-69.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.1-69.9 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.0-67.0</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63.0-67.0 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0-62.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.0-62.9 - Below basic performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 60.0</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Incomplete” grade: No “INC” grade will be given in this course.

**HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

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

**LATE SUBMISSIONS AND MAKE-UP WORK**

All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted. Do not email assignments after the deadline with the expectation that you will receive credit for them. Exceptions for late work and make-up assignments can only be granted in documented cases of emergency, with the approval of the major coordinator of the student (for contact information see ADVISING below).

Please note that the following situations are not considered emergencies: You had to work late (unexpectedly); you got called in for work (unexpectedly); computer broke; Wi-Fi was not working; public transportation delays; you are moving; you are traveling; you completed the assignment, but forgot to submit it; you forgot your textbook at your parents’/friend’s/sister’s house or similar cases.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, must be completed independently and within the academic standards of the Department of Political Science, the College, and the University. Students should properly cite all works they reference. All citations should be consistent with the APA Documentation Style. Failure to properly cite will result in a failing grade on an assignment. More information about the APA Documentation Style can be received from [http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/c.php?g=288322&p=1922429](http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/c.php?g=288322&p=1922429).

Please note that for this course students may not submit full papers or parts of assignments that have been or are being used for other courses.

Be reminded that academic dishonesty is prohibited at The City University of New York Policy on Academic Integrity and is punishable by penalties, which may include failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

1. **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 own 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.

Students who are unsure they fully understand what academic integrity rules are should consult with the John Jay Writing Center. Additionally, the Lloyd Sealy Library has free guides about academic standards (See *John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin*, [http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php), Chapter IV Academic Standards)

**PLAGIARISM SANCTION**

The detection of intentional or unintentional plagiarism will cause the student to automatically get:
- First instance of plagiarism, an F first in the assignment.
- Second instance of plagiarism, an F in the course.

In the event of each plagiarism case, an Academic Integrity Violation Form will be submitted to the Office of the Provost.
BLACKBOARD AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

1. The syllabus, assigned readings, and other relevant materials will be uploaded on Blackboard. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly.
2. Students are required to have an active email account registered in Blackboard.
3. Students should use John Jay email account to communicate with the professor. Other email accounts (e.g., gmail, yahoo, etc.) may be used in situations when John Jay email services are unavailable. Student emails will be answered within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

Students must bring their own laptops to class.
• Module 1\(^1\) - 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 - Prevention and Strategies against Organized Crime
• Mock Trial
• Model UNODC Simulation

\(^1\) EJ4 modules will be available on Blackboard. Sample Module is enclosed to this Syllabus.
ADDITIONAL LITERATURE


