

POLS 494 RCH-WR: Illicit Organizations

Fall 2018

Monday: 1-4pm

Location: Tarbutton 116

Professor Danielle F. Jung

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Office Hours: by appointment at <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/vhyod>

Location: Tarbutton 319

Course Description

This course explores a range of illicit organizations, focusing on how their operational constraints affect them. How and why are illicit organizations different from their licit counterparts? How are their structure, function, and output related to (or not) their legal status? After an introductory survey of social and political organizations and several licit organizations, the course will turn to study more closely a variety of (non-mutually exclusive) illicit organizations: terrorist and rebel groups; organized crime; gangs; drug production, trafficking, and sales. Special attention is paid to the similarities and differences between licit and illicit organizations in structure and function, and effects of policy interventions on the structure, survival, and output of illicit organizations.

This class is conducted as a seminar. Each week the readings and discussion will center around a single theme or topic in some detail.

Note: This is a discussion-based class, seminar participants have no need for laptops or tablets in this class; do not bring them. Either bring hard copies of the readings or your notes.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- Short papers **25 percent**: Each student will write 2 short analytical papers of 4-6 pages each. These papers should respond to the readings assigned for a given week. Each paper should be a critical response

to the readings, highlighting questions emerging from consideration of the readings taken collectively and in the context of the course to that point, to be discussed at that week's meeting. Papers should *not* be a summary of the readings. Each paper is worth 12.5 percent of the final grade. Students will sign up during the first week. The papers are due at the beginning of the class. Papers must be written in 12 pt font, with 1" margins.

- Attendance and Participation **10 percent**: Attendance will be taken, and students are expected to be active participants in class. Each student can miss a small number of classes without it impinging on his or her attendance and participation grade. I will not provide notes or slides, should there be any; students need to come to class and participate in the discussion. If you have missed class, please check with classmates for their notes. If you miss class due to a documented illness or a family emergency, I would be more than willing to meet with you and answer any questions you might have about the missed material.
- Seminar questions **15 percent**: To prepare for class discussions, students must post three questions to facilitate discussion. Questions must directly address the readings (and/or how they relate to the course as a whole) but should be open-ended. Individual questions may focus on one reading or the intersection of more than one reading. Each question will be assessed on a pass/no pass basis. If you plan to miss class, you will receive a zero. Questions should also be posted to Canvas by 11:59PM the day before the class meeting.
- Research paper **40 percent**: Each seminar participant will write a 18-25 page research paper. This paper should deal with a theme covered in the course, but should constitute original research. We will discuss reasonable paper topics during the first few course meetings class, initial topics must be approved. Students should submit a one-page (minimum) paper proposal on 9/24 describing their research question. Students must submit an outline of the content and an annotated bibliography on 10/15. The week of 10/22, students will meet one-on-one to discuss their topic and progress with the instructor. Students should submit a rough draft to the instructor on 11/12 (peer editing version should be submitted by 11/5). The final paper is due electronically at

noon on 12/19 (early papers are always accepted).

- **Presentation 10 percent:** Each student will give a 10 minute presentation of their research paper during the last meetings of class. The presentation will summarize the argument and evidence offered in the research paper. More details will be provided in class.

Note: Students must pass each category to pass course.

Reading Material

We will read a variety of different source materials, academic articles, white papers, long-form journalism, opinion, as well as books by academics and journalists. Most of these materials will be available through the electronic course reserves, blackboard, or are available electronically to you through the Emory Library. I recommend purchasing the following book as we will read most or all of it:

- Grillo, Ioan. 2016 *Gangster Warlords: Drug Dollars, Killing Fields and the new Politics of Latin America* Bloomsbury

Policies and Expectations

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and have anticipated barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, or presume having a disability (e.g. mental health, attention, learning, vision, hearing, physical or systemic), and are in need of accommodations for this semester, we encourage you to contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) to learn more about the registration process and steps for requesting accommodations.

If you are a student that is currently registered with OAS and have not received a copy of your accommodation notification letter within the first week of class, please notify OAS immediately. Students who have accommodations in place are encouraged to coordinate sometime with your professor, during the first week of the semester, to communicate your specific needs for the course as it relates to your approved accommodations. All discussions with OAS and faculty concerning the nature of your disability remain confidential.

For additional information regarding OAS, please visit the website: equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access. (<http://www.ods.emory.edu/>) and dis-

cuss the issue with me within the first week of class.

Academic Integrity

I will follow the guidelines established by Emory College, which can be found at catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policy/honor_code.html

Email and Office Hours

Every attempt will be made to respond to germane emails within one business day.

Late Assignments

All assignments are due on the announced due date during the first 10 minutes of class on on canvas by the specified time. Any assignment turned in after this period will be considered one day late. One full letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. Seminar questions will not be accepted late. Research paper milestones turned in late will incur a late penalty as specified on the assignment.

Incomplete grades

Incomplete grades will not be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student *prior* to the end of the course. The instructor reserves the right to determine if the incomplete grade will be given.

Schedule

Meeting 1 (9/10): Overview and Logistics

Meeting 2 (9/17): Licit Organizations I

What are social organizations? Why do we need them? How do they solve collective action problems? How do they affect outcomes both socially and individually? What is the variety of organizational structure? These weeks explore a variety of licit organizations to allow us to compare and contrast in subsequent weeks.

- Milgrom, North, and Weingast “The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Law Merchant, Private Judges and the Champagne Fairs” *Economics and Politics* Vol 2(1):1-23
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. “Dictatorship Democracy and Development” *American Political Science Review* Vol.87(3):567-576
- James Q. Wilson *Bureaucracy: What Government agencies do and why they do it* pp3-28
- Anders, Terry L. and Peter J. Hill *The not so wild, wild west* Stanford University Press: Chapter 7

Meeting 3: 9/24 Licit Organizations II¹

- Elickson, Robert *Order Without Law* Chapters 2, 3
- Lansing, J Stephen *Perfect Order* Chapters 3, 4
- Brass, Jennifer N. *Allies or Adversaries: NGOs and the State in Africa* Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2

Section 2: Illicit Organizations What are the hallmarks of this type of organization? What are their organizational goals and needs? What about their operational environment makes them organize and function differently than their licit counterparts?

Meeting 4: 10/1 Terrorist and Rebel Organizations I

- Berman, Eli 2009. *Radical, Religious and Violent* MIT Press. Chapters 3, 4 (Recommended: 5, 6)
- Shapiro, Jacob *The Terrorist's Dilemma* Chapter 2
- “Foundations of the Islamic State: Management, Money and Terror In Iraq, 2005-2010” RAND 2015, chapters 3 and 4
- “The Caliphate” *New York Times* Chapter 2, 6, 7

10/8 FALL BREAK

¹Note: This class will end at 3pm

Meeting 5: 10/15: Structure and “Constitutions”

Note: paper outlines due in class.

- Peters, Gretchen. 2012 “Haqqani Network Financing: The Evolution of an Industry” Harmony Program: The Combating Terrorism Center at West Point
- Kenney, Michael. 2007. “The architecture of drug trafficking: Network Forms of Organization in the Colombian Cocaine Trade” *Global Crime* Vol 8(3)
- Leeson, Peter. 2007. “An-arrgh-chy” *Journal of Political Economy* Vol 115(6): 1049-1094
- Skarbek, David. 2011. “Governance and Prison Gangs” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 105 No 4.

Week of 10/22: Paper consultation week

- Students will sign up for individual meetings to discuss their paper proposal and progress

Meeting 6: 10/29 Finances and Leadership removal

- Levitt, Steven D. and Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh. 2000. “An Economic Analysis of a Drug-Selling Gang’s Finances” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 115(3):755-789.
- Ben Bahney et al. “Insurgent Compensation: Evidence from Iraq” 2013. *American Economic Review* 103(3):518-522
- Johnston, Patrick B. 2012 “Does Decapitation Work? Assessing the Effectiveness of Leadership Targeting in Counterinsurgency Campaigns” *International Security* 36(4):47-79
- Phillips, Brian 2015 “How does leadership decapitation affect violence? The case of drug trafficking organizations in Mexico” *Journal of Politics* 77(2): 324-336

Meeting 7: 11/5 New cases and domains? Revisiting Crime and Enforcement

- Patrick Redford 2018 “The Ridiculous Saga Of Lance Armstrong, The Cheater Who Became An Enemy Of The State” Deadspin
- Greenberg, Andy 2013 “Meet The Dread Pirate Roberts, The Man Behind Booming Black Market Drug Website Silk Road” *Forbes*
- Bilton, Nick. 2016 “How Elizabeth Holmes’s House of Cards Came Tumbling Down” *Vanity Fair*
- Walter, Shoshana 2016 “In secretive marijuana industry, whispers of abuse and trafficking” *RevealNews*

Writing workshop: Meeting 8: 11/12

- **Rough drafts due to editing group** in-class editing.

No class meeting: 11/19

Section 4: Intersections with the State

How do state-organization dynamics affect the function and vulnerabilities of illicit organizations?

Meeting 9: 11/26

- Grillo, Ioan. 2016 *Gangster Warlords* London: Bloomsbury. *Selected chapters announced in class*
- Volkov, Vadim *Violent Entrepreneurs* Chapter 2
- Berti, Benedetta 2013 *Armed Political Organizations: From Conflict to Integration* Johns Hopkins University Press. pp 1-27

12/3, 12/10

Student Presentations

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made be in class.