

CJ 275 Gangs

Contact Information

Instructor: Tasha Morin
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Course Information

Criminal Justice 275 - Gangs
Room 209
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisite: CJ 120
Wednesday 5:30 - 7:50 p.m.

Syllabus Date

August, 2012

Required Text

Gangs: An Individual and Group Perspective
Tobin, Kimberly (2008). Pearson.

Course Description

Exploration of gang activity in the U.S. Examines gang related violence, and the dynamics of gang involvement. Criminological theories that explain the social, economic, and environmental reasons for gang existence are discussed. **Prerequisite: CJ 120.**

Rationale

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the various motivations to join a gang and participate in gang activity, and how society has responded to their activity.

**Course Goals/
Assessment**

- * Understand the general tactics and concepts of gangs.
- * Differentiate between social and criminal gangs.
- * Be able to identify gang demographics
- * Identify the relationship between immigration regulations and gang involvement.
- * Become aware of the various types of gang activities.

Materials of Instruction

Gangs: An Individual and Group Perspective
Tobin, Kimberly (2008). Pearson.

Requirements

Examinations: Two examinations will be given. These examinations will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. Examinations will give the student the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of the various gang topics, and will count for 60% of the total grade.

Assignments: Critical thinking assignments will be given and will comprise 30% of the total grade. One of the assignments will be a 10 minute presentation on a gang topic of your choice.

Participation: Students are expected to attend each scheduled class. Attendance will be taken every class day. Students should actively engage themselves in classroom discussion topics. Participation will count for 10% of the total grade. Excused absences will not reflect negatively on the student's overall participation grade. Excused absences will be those relating to family death/emergency, being ill, or attending doctors appointments. I must be notified BEFORE class if you will not be attending due to these circumstances. If this is impossible, the absence will need to be discussed at the earliest time to determine its validity. Whether it is excused or not, all absences will be reported to student services.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the semester, and will be posted on the course main page.

Grading

600 Total Points: 300 points - Examinations; 220 points - Assignments; 80 points - Participation
90 - 100% = A (540 - 600 points)
80 - 89% = B (480 - 539 points)
70 - 79% = C (420 - 479 points)
60 - 69% = D (360 - 419 points)
Below 60% = F (0 - 359 points)

Method of Instruction

Course objectives will be accomplished by combining lecture, discussion, and self-directed instruction.

Attendance

See "Requirements" section of syllabus.

Class Procedures

In general, late assignments will not be accepted. If you feel you will not meet a deadline for an assignment, contact me before hand, and we will discuss alternative arrangements. **Make-up exams will be given only if documentation is provided explaining the need for a make-up exam. All make-up exams, regardless if it is taken before or after the scheduled test day, are essay exams.**

Absences: An absence from class, whether it is excused or not, is still an absence and will be submitted to student services.

Contacting the Instructor Outside of Class: If for some reason you need to contact the instructor outside of class, you may email tmorin@tm.edu, or call 701-477-2031. Please do not call after 9:00 p.m. If you are attending class regularly, you should not need to contact me outside of class. Missing class and then frantically trying to contact me before a deadline, or after an exam is not acceptable behavior.

If students require specialized instructions or classroom modifications, they must inform the instructor during the 1st weekday of class.

Disability/Access Statement

If you have emergency medical information to share with me, if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, or if you need accommodations in this course because of a disability, please make an appointment with me. My office location is Room 210S. My office hours are by appointment. If you plan to request disability accommodations, you are expected to register with Harmony Lindgren, Counselor (RM FA 103) (701)-477-7947.

Tentative Class Schedule*	<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings/Exams/Due Dates</u>
Week 1	22-Aug	Syllabus; Pre-Test
Week 2	29-Aug	Chapter 1; Assignment
Week 3	5-Sep	Chapter 2; Assignment
Week 4	12-Sep	Chapter 3; Assignment
Week 5	19-Sep	Chapter 4; Assignment
Week 6	26-Sep	Chapter 5; Assignment
Week 7	3-Oct	Chapter 6 & Review
Week 8	10-Oct	EXAM 1
Week 9	17-Oct	Chapter 7; Assignment
Week 10	24-Oct	Chapter 8; Assignment
Week 11	31-Oct	Chapter 9; Assignment
Week 12	7-Nov	Chapter 10; Assignment
Week 13	14-Nov	Chapter 11; Assignment
Week 14	21-Nov	Chapter 12; Assignment
Week 15	28-Nov	Review Chapters 7-12; Student Presentations
Week 16	5-Dec	Final Exam

* I reserve the right to make changes with notice.

Cultural Methods

Materials relevant to the Turtle Mountain Community and culture will be introduced whenever possible. Discussions and critical thinking assignments will encourage students to examine current Indian Country Criminal Justice issues.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain academic honesty. Plagiarism, cheating on a test, and collusion are all examples of academic dishonesty. An "F" will be given to any student who commits academic dishonesty. In addition, the Dean of Academic Programs will be advised of the student(s) actions. A student has the right to appeal the instructor's action in accordance with the student appeal policy.

Communication

Electronic communication between student and instructor will be conducted via TMCC email. All students have a tm.edu email address. This will be the only email communication method accepted during the course. You will receive email messages from the instructor at your tm.edu email address, and should check it regularly to avoid missed communication. If you are not aware of your tm.edu email address, please visit the IT office, or student services to obtain it.