

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Division of Criminal Justice

Cr.J 139

Gangs and Threat Groups in America

Professor Hernandez
Spring.2009
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

CR.J 139. Gangs and Threat Groups in America. Examination of Criminal organizations in America. The problems posed by “antisocial Groups,” their structure and their history in contemporary American society. The spectrum of social sciences is employed in an examination of “illegal groups” and such issues as aggression and group dynamics. Styles such as street gangs, prison gangs and traditional organized crime are defined and studied. 3 units.

Area D2: Major Social Issues of the Contemporary Era

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

- Only for documented disabilities.

KEY ISSUES FOR STUDENTS

- "If you have a documented disability and verification from SSWD, and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible."
- Inappropriate conduct by students is subject to discipline as provided in Sections 41301 through 41304 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. These sections are as follows:
 - Article 1.1, Title 5, California Administrative Code
 - 41301. Expulsion, Suspension and Probation of Students. Following procedures consonant with due process established pursuant to Section 41304, any student of a campus may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation or given a lesser sanction for one or more of the following causes which must be campus related:
 - Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus.
 - Forgery, alteration or misuse of campus documents, records, or identification of knowingly furnishing false information to a campus.
 - Obstruction or disruption, on or off campus property, of the campus educational process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the General Education Program requirements, Students will be expected to:

- Find and use common information resources, engage in specialized library research, use computers and seek out appropriate expert opinion and advice.
- In addition to these basic skills, courses in the sciences, arts, humanities, and social sciences have been selected to provide students with:
 - An exposure to the historical and cultural influences that have played significant roles in the evolution of the values, beliefs and ideas of Western and non-Western societies, through the study of significant literary, philosophical, and artistic works;
 - A familiarity with the theories and methods of the social sciences in order to enhance their understandings of the major institutions in our society, and the roles that both individuals and groups play in shaping experience;
 - Perspectives on people from various cultures and backgrounds, including awareness of the contributions of non-Western cultures, women, and other ethnic and underrepresented groups to the rich diversity of human activity; and _ an understanding of the current theories and methods used to expand our knowledge of the processes of mental and physical development throughout the human life cycle.
 - Understand this dribble required by the General Education Committee.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social and policy influences as they are related to the development of gang groups.
- Identify causes of gang involvement and membership styles of gang involvement
- Identify & understand selected gang groups
- Understand the foundations for dealing with street gangs

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

- The School of health & Human Services has a program which provides assistance in writing projects.

COURSE APPROACH

- The texts & assigned research materials are meant to provide a background and support to lecture and discussion. Students should become familiar with this information and use it as a basis for discussion, analysis as well as support for research papers...
- Films will be used in the class, and as home assignments to highlight & illustrate the issues discussed.
- The instructor will present contradictory materials, and on occasion take the side of the gangs, police or whomever, in order to stimulate discussion.
- Humor is often used as a means of dealing with controversial topics.

ATTENDANCE

- Please note that 20% of the grade may be based on class participation & instructor discretion.
- Students with excessive absences will not be eligible for extra credit work.

EXAMINATIONS

- Examinations may include both Multiple Choice and/or short answer essays.
- Students may opt to do a term paper on a pre-agreed upon topic in lieu of an examination. This is at the instructor's discretion.
- Students who wish to challenge the grading of any question may bring in supporting data prior to the next examination.
- Students who are late to an examination may not be admitted after any person has left the exam room & may stay no longer than students who arrived on time.
- Any information relating to the examination will only be given at the beginning of the examination and will not be repeated.
- Grading of Exams
 - 100-90% -A
 - 89-80% -B
 - 79-70% -C
 - 69-60% -D

The actual grades may be norm based.

EXTRA CREDIT

General

- This course is constantly being updated. Students who aid in the development of the course will receive extra credit.
- **Any student who catches an error in the lecture materials, and can provide the correct materials will receive double credit or more.**

GRADING

- Grading will be based on class averages.
- Class participation and or instructor discretion will be approximately 20%
- Project will be 150 points total.
- Extra credit will **not** be included in class average, but only in determining the student's individual grade.
- The semester grade will include all the material, and exams.
- The final grade will reflect the total of points achieved. Letter grades used to explain the exam scores are for student information only and will not be used in the grading process.
- Grading based on points possible for semester.
 - 100-90% -A
 - 89-80% -B
 - 79-70% -C
 - 69-60% -D

The actual grades may be norm based.

RESEARCH PROJECT

- **General Structure of the Project**
 - **The Basics**
 - The final project will be a minimum of ten pages and a maximum of 15 pages.

- A recognized term paper guide will serve as the basis for the project.
 - The value of the total project is **140 points**.
 - All materials are submitted to the instructor in class.
 - Items submitted to mailbox, e-mail, left on desk will not be graded until the beginning of next semester (when the professor's desk is clean-assuming they are found!)
- **Proposal (Due: Tue. Feb. 17 (10 Points))**
 - Face Sheet
 - Title
 - Name
 - Class, date & time
 - Summary
 - Introduction
 - Group & area selected.
 - Background (page two)
 - Short background of the specific area
 - Demographic data
 - Associated problems

- **Research Outline (Due: Tue. March 10 (30 Points))**
 - **Face Sheet (stapled to outline)**
 - Title
 - Name
 - Class, time
 - **Summary (page one)**
 - Introduction
 - Group being studied
 - Key points to be addressed
 - **Background (page two)**
 - **Demographic data**
 - **Associated problems**
 - **Trends which may affect gang activity (page three)**
 - **Newspaper**
 - **Local & national**
 - **Research (page four)**
 - **Research Plan**
 -

RESEARCH PAPER (Due: April 30) 100 points

- **General Information**
 - The foundation of the paper is the outline submitted & approved.
 - If a topic area requires more than one page, the writer may use letters from the alphabet, (e.g. 1a.2b etc.
 - Do **NOT** use any type of binder. Only white paper stapled on the upper left corner.
- **Face Sheet**
 - Title

- Name
- Class, time & date
- **Summary of Project (page one)**
 - Introduction (background from OJJDP “Youth Gangs: an overview)
 - Gang group being studied
 - Area where the gang will be drawn from
 - Limitations of Report(what do you intend to report)
 - Key points to be discussed
 - Bias or orientation of writer
- **Background of the Problem (page 2)**
 - Background of the area
 - Demographic data
 - Associated problems
 - Relationship of communities problems to the state and region
- **Research (page 3)**
 - Explain how the research was conducted
 - Type of research
 - Problems encountered
 - Material emphasized
- **Body of the Paper (pages 4-8)**
 - Introduction
 - The Gang group
 - Structure
 - Activity level
 - Relating the topic to a specific geographical area
 - Newspapers interviews
 - Factors contributing to the gang situation
 - Current Gang Situation
 - Other groups in the area
 - Relationship of other groups
 - Explanation of conflict with other groups
 - What steps are being taken to remedy the current problem
- **Assessing the potential for greater problems (page 9)**
 - What are current gang trends
 - What are current trends
 - Overall economy
 - Potential changes in the area
 - Overall trends of the group being studied
 - Overall gang trends in California
- **Responding to the Problem (page 10)**
 - Based on: **Best Practices: To Address Community Gang Problems.**
 - What data will be the basis of a response
 - What problems will your project deal with
 - How will you know if your project is successful?
 - Your project is most like:
- **References (page 11)**

- Justice Policy Institute: Gang Wars
- 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment
- Reference list (Four minimum for background information)
- Lecture (subject and date)
- Journal Articles (Two minimum, published within the previous two years)
- Internet (one minimum)
- Newspaper article (two minimum)
- Interview (suggested)
- **Appendix**
 - Proposal (original with comments)
 - Research outline (original with comments)
 - Other materials researched but not used
- **WRITING GUIDELINES**
 - Double spaced, using 12 point font.
 - Use spell-check. An excess or spelling errors will result in the loss of one point per error.
 - Use of standard academic format for research papers.
 - No slang or contractions unless it is a quote
 - Footnotes or endnotes & bibliography
 - Wikipedia is not acceptable
 - The following will result in the grade of “F”
 - Fabricated resources & interviews.
 - Plagiarism.
- **GRADING FOR RESEARCH PAPER**
 - Following the Outline 30 %
 - Quality of work 20-30%
 - Relating demographic data to the gang
 - Blending required reading to the project.
 - Editing
 - Quality of research 20-50%
 - Up to date information
 - Material drawn from other fields.
 - Difficulty of topic 10-30%
 - **LATE: A DEDUCTION OF 10 % PER DAY (until received by instructor in class)**
 - **PAPERS WHICH SHOW NO INDICATION OF OUTLINE WILL NOT BE GRADED.**
- **REQUIRED READING.**
 - Barger, Ralph “Sonny” Hell’s Angel, Harper-Collins, Perennial, 2001
 - Klein, Malcolm W. Chasing After Street Gangs: A forty-Year Journey, Person-Prentice Hall 2007
 - National Alliance of Gang Investigators, 2005, Gang Threat Assessment. Available @ FBI website
 - Justice Policy Institute: Gang Wars. (Available at Justice Policy Institute site

- Sanyika Shakur, AKA Monster Kody Scott, MONSTER: The Autobiography of an LA Gang Member, New York: Grove Press, 1993
- U.S, Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model @ ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ 2008
- Kent, Douglas R. Cultural Explanations for Vietnamese youth Involvement in Street Gangs. Public Safety: Gangs and Delinquency Project. 95-JD-FY-00, Final Report to Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, (Read only First 14 Pages)
- **OJJDP BULLETINS** <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/>
 - Karl G. Hill, Early Precursors of Gang Membership: A Study of Seattle Youth, JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, December 2001
 - James C. Howell, The Youth Gangs, Drugs and Violence Connection, JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
 - James C. Howell, Youth Gangs: An Overview, JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, Aug. 1998.
 - David Starbuck, Hybrid and Other Modern Gangs, JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, December 2001
- **SUGGESTED READING**
 - Hoff Summers, C. The War Against Boys, Simon & Schuster, 2001
 - Starr, Kevin. Coast of Dreams , Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2004
 - J. Hernandez and D. Cahill, STREET GANGS AND THREAT GROUPS, Preliminary Edition.
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TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

- **Week 1.** Introduction to C.J. 139
 - **Read: Klein**
 - **Justice Policy Institute: Gang Wars**
 - **OJJDP: Early Precursors of Gang Membership**
- **Week 2.** Overview of Street Gangs
- **Week 3.** Where do Gangs Come From
 - **Discussion of Research Statement**
 - **Discussion based on Kline**
- **Week 4.** The World of the Gang Member
 - **Project proposal paragraph due Tue. Feb. 17, Beginning of class)**
- **Week 5**

- **Exam Review (Tue)**
 - Project Discussion
 - Completion of the Klein Text
- **Exam (Th. Feb. 26)**
- **Week 6.**
 - **Prison Gangs**
 - BEGIN READING: 1. Monster
2. **2005 National Gang Threat Assessment**
3. **Hybrid Gangs (OJJDP)**
- **Week 7**
 - Hispanic Gangs
- **Week 8.**
 - Hispanic Gangs
 - Black Gangs
- **Week 9.**
 - African-American Gang Groups
 - Asian Gangs
 - READ: Cultural Explanations for Vietnamese youth involvement in Street Gangs, OJJDP BULLITIN (Page 1-14)**
- **Week 10.** Asian Gang Groups
 - White gang groups
 - Review
- **Week 11.**
 - **Exam 2 (April 16)**
 - **READ: Gang Wars: Prevention, Intervention and Suppression (OJJDP)**
 - Gang Prevention & Intervention
- **Week 12.**
 - Gang Prevention & Intervention
 - Outlaw Motorcycle Groups
 - **Begin: Barger**
- **Week 13**
 - Outlaw Motorcycle Groups
- **Week 14**
 - Outlaw Motorcycle Groups
 - **Current Issues**
- **Week 15**
 - **Review & Discussion**
- **Week 16**
 - **Final Examination (Tue May 19, 8-10 a.m.)**

STUDY GUIDE

OJJDP

Vietnamese Gangs Report

- The gang relationship with organized crime?

- Classifying gang involvement.
- Explain the Utilitarian Perspective?
- The best predictors of gang involvement
- The Social Problem view of gangs?
- How do some parents react to youth gang involvement, & why
- The role of alienation from school.
- Factors in youth self-identification as gang members?
- How do Vietnamese differ from the other gangs?
- What was delinquency attributable too?
- Self-concept and gang membership.
- Why might a youth might leave a gang

Early Precursors to Gang Involvement

- Crime activity of gang members compared to non-gang members
- Age factors in gang involvement
- Risk factors in gang involvement
- Factors predicting gang involvement
- Implications for prevention

GANG WARS

Exam 1

- Gangs in New York & Chicago-differences
- Chicago Gangs, development-reasons
- Advancement project
- Cal Gangs
- NYGC
- Challenges to police view of gangs
- Research on gang membership
- Rochester Study

Final Exam

- Gang Injunctions
- Solutions & policies for dealing with gangs
- Why are current approaches ineffective
- Boston Cease Fire Project
- Rand Evaluation

REFERENCES

California Penal Code
THE S.T.E.P. ACT
SECTION 186.20-186.33
(Summary for Classroom discussion)

- **Definition of “Criminal Street Gang**. A criminal street gang is defined as any organization association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, which (1) has continuity of purpose (2) seeks a group identity; and (3) has members who individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity (reference Section 186.22 of the California Penal Code.)
- **Definition of “Gang Related Crime”**: A crime is considered to be “gang related” if the suspect or the victim of the incident is a known member of a gang, or there is reliable information indicating that the offense was committed by a gang member.
- **The following criminal acts are enumerated in paragraphs (1) to (8) as being Gang related**
 - Assault with a deadly weapon or by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury.
 - Robbery
 - Unlawful homicide or manslaughter
 - The sale, possession for sale, transportation, manufacturing, offer for sale, or offer to manufacture controlled substances.
 - Shooting at an inhabited dwelling or occupied motor vehicle
 - Arson
 - The intimidation of witnesses and victims
 - Grand theft or any vehicle, trailer, or vessel
- **Definition of “Gang Member”**: A gang member is defined as anyone who (1) actively participates in a criminal street gang; (2) has knowledge that its members engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity, and promotes or, furthers or assists in any criminal conduct by members of the gang (Reference section 186.22 (a))
- **Active Participation defined**: Must have a relationship with a criminal street gang, (1) more than nominal, passive, inactive or purely technical, and (2) the person must devote all, or a substantial part of his or her time and efforts to the criminal street gang. (P. V. Green 1991 and P. V. Gamez 1991)
 - Membership is NOT required, --any person who actively participates in any criminal street gang can be found in violation of PC 186.22

Identification Criteria

- Admits to Gang membership
- Is observed to associate on a regular basis with known gang members:
- Has tattoos indicating gang membership:
- Wears gang clothing, symbols, etc, that are identified with a specific gang;
- Is in photographs with known gang members and /or using gang-related related hand signs;
- Is identified as a gang member by a reliable source;

- Is arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates;
- Corresponds with known gang members or writes and / or receives correspondence about gang activities and/ or
- Writes about gangs (graffiti) on walls, books, paper, etc.

POLICY OF THE CALIFORNIA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

- The California District Attorneys Association has advised District Attorneys in California to use the S.T.E.P. Act whenever possible.
- This allows them to call police "experts" on gangs and put them in front of the jury.
- **The Prosecutor's Brief** — a publication of the California District Attorneys Association — said, "a gang expert can rely on hearsay....the gang expert makes your case"
- "If they just give evidence against *gangs* to a jury, they don't have to prove their "real" case.
- This helps the District Attorney win even weak cases.

(Pawloski & Brown, S.T.E.P. on Gangs in *Prosecutor's Brief* (date unknown) Vol. XX, No. 3 p. 46.)