

CRCJ 4325.001
Gangs
Fall 2015

<i>Instructor:</i> Dr. John J. Rodriguez <i>Office:</i> 352 University Hall <i>Office Hours:</i> By appointment	<i>Phone:</i> 817.272.0742 <i>Email:</i> JJRodriguez@uta.edu
---	---

Course Information:

Monday-Friday 12-21-2015/01-14-2016
 UH 104

Course Description:

The course is an examination of historical and contemporary street gangs, as well as institutional gangs. We will address the nature and definition of gangs, types and diversity of membership of gangs, theoretical explanations, criminal and deviant behavior, law enforcement responses, intervention and prevention strategies, and public policy issues.

Course Objectives:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will have a better understanding of the:

- ✓ Primary and historical events surrounding gang in the United States
- ✓ Definition(s) of a gang
- ✓ Concepts in how a society deals with gangs
- ✓ Solutions/Strategies to reduce gang problem and address gang issues

Required Texts:

No Text books will be required for the winter session.

Course Requirements:

The students will be assessed on two exams and one presentation, and one paper. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade and the final will not be cumulative. The presentation will be group projects, but will be graded on an individual basis. The presentation will be worth 25% of the final grade. There is also a 2 page paper to be conducted worth 25% of your final grade.

Reading

Students are expected to do all of the required reading for each section of the course and be familiar with the course readings for the purposes of class discussion. Students will be called upon individually to discuss the day's reading.

Class Attendance and Participation

Both class attendance and participation are strongly encouraged as well as expected. Poor class attendance will significantly impact a student's grade. Generally, students who attend class regularly perform better on exams than do students who do not attend class. The instructor considers 3 or more missed classes as poor class attendance.

I have established the following attendance policy, Class roll will be called at the beginning of class; if you do not answer when called upon you will be counted absent. If you arrive late to class please see me after class, so not to be counted absent. Excessive tardiness will also result in a failing grade for the class. Being late to class twice will equal one missed class day. In the real world the old saying goes, "If you are five minutes early, you are on time; if you are on time, you are late." DO NOT BE LATE!

In addition to being on time, students are expected to remain in class until the instructor dismisses them. Students are also expected to be attentive to class proceedings, whether it is lecture, video, class discussion or

guest lecture. Students who are not attentive or who are disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom and are expected to do so promptly and respectfully.

Students are responsible for determining what materials they have missed when class is missed. The instructor **does not** make notes available to students. Students who miss class are encouraged to obtain a copy of notes from another student in the class; however no student is obligated to provide notes to any other student. Please do not take advantage of another student's kindness by relying on them to come to class and take notes for you while you skip class. If you do borrow another student's notes or notebook, please return their notes in a timely manner.

Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices will be allowed in class, unless arrangements have been made with Dr. Rodriguez. This includes but not limited to **laptops**, cell/mobile phones, pagers, recorders, iPods, MP3 players, etc... Please turn off all cell phones and/or beepers (as well as anything else that may make noise) during class. If you forget to turn your phone off and you get a call, please **do not** answer it and turn the ringer off as quickly as possible. Mobile communication devices should not be used during class time for text messaging, email or any other form of communication. I will give a warning the first time, the second I will ask you to leave my class and not return until you have set a meeting with the department chair and me.

Assignment I : Presentation 25 % of final grade

In the first presentation student is to conduct a Power Point presentation on a gang the group has selected. No two groups will have the same gang. Groups will be identified by the instructor. There will be a maximum of 4 members per group. The presentations will be on power point and will include but not limited **main thesis of the gang, the history, size, colors, symbols, etc...** please sign up early as topics will be limited. See *tentative course schedule* for presentation dates. Students will be selected to present randomly by the professor.

Assignment II: Paper

The student is to write a 5 page paper in response to a scenario provided by the instructor. The scenario will be based on America's most deadly gang, MS – 13. Details will be announced in class. Further detail will be announced in class. The paper is worth 20% of the student's final grade.

Grading Scale:

Exam I	=	25%
Final	=	25%
Presentation I	=	25%
Paper	=	25%
<hr/>		
Total	=	100%
90-100	A	
80-89	B	
70-79	C	
60-69	D	
59 and below	F	

Extra credit will NOT be offered on an individual basis. If extra credit is offered, I will let you know as a class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty (i.e. cheating) will not be tolerated. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty, students are encouraged to consult their student handbooks and/or

to refer to the website of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs at http://www2.uta.edu/discipline/academic_integrity.htm.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX:

The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Student Support Services:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

E-Culture Policy:

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Incomplete grades will not be given unless there is a legitimate reason why the student cannot complete the required work during the semester. A failing grade is not considered a legitimate excuse to receive an incomplete in the course.

Drop Policy: If you decide to drop this course you must go to the undergraduate advisors office of the department in which you are **majoring**. In all other circumstances the University Drop Policy will be followed.

Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located... When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

