

Course Objectives/Course Outline

Spokane Community College

Course Title: Organized Crime and Homeland Security

Prefix and Course Number: CJ 234

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Define organized crime and the characteristics of organized crime
- Understand the similarities and differences between organized crime and terrorism
- Understand organized crime in terms of the strain of anomie, subcultures, cultural transmission, differential association, differential opportunity, and social control theory
- Understand the structure and business operations of various criminal organizations throughout the United States and the world
- Understand the role of federal agencies in combating organized crime and terrorism

Outline:

I. Organized Crime

- A. Organized crime is different from conventional crime.
- B. The criminality of persons in OC differs from that of conventional criminals
- C. Organization allows them to commit crimes of a different variety, labor racketeering and on a larger scale.
- D. Organization permits types of crimes unavailable to conventional criminals and provides a vehicle for criminal interaction and cooperation on a regional, national, and international level.

II. Defining "Organized Crime"

- A. FBI definition of OC: any group having some manner of a formalized structure and whose primary objective is to obtain money through illegal activities.
- B. The UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
- C. No generally accepted definition of organized crime exists.,
- D. Absence of political goals.
- E. Hierarchical 1. Vertical power structure 2. At least three ranks, each with power over the level beneath

III. The Structure of Organized Crime

- A. Organized Crime as a Bureaucracy

B. Compartmentalization 1. Compartmentalization, such as cell formations, can offset these risks.

IV. Franchise/Credentialing

A. Franchising and credentialing enhance networking among criminal organizations.

B. A credential is an authentication of organizational affiliation.

C. Death head logo of Hell's Angels

V. Criminal Networks and Brokers

A. Points of convergence are meeting places that provide opportunity for organized criminals to enhance their business interests.

B. Brokers construct "social bridges" to connect criminal actors and sometimes, to connect criminal and noncriminal business interests.

VI. Transnational Organized Crime

A. Transnational organized crime (TOC) has benefited from globalization and changes in political alignments.

B. TOC has no single structure; configurations vary from hierarchies to clans, networks, and cells, and may evolve to other structures.

C. Economic gain is the primary goal of a TOC.

D. TOC operates transnationally, using market and communication mechanisms to obtain power, influence, monetary, and/or commercial gains by both legal and illegal means.

E. TOC protects its illegal activities through transnational organizational structures.

F. TOC exploits differences between countries to further organizational objectives.

G. Transnational organized criminals use violence or the threat of violence to achieve their objectives.

H. Transnational organized criminals use organizational structures to insulate their leadership and members from detection, sanction, and/or prosecution.

VII. Organized Crime and Terrorism

A. There is no universally accepted definition of terrorism.

B. Today's criminal networks are fluid, striking new alliances with other networks around the world and engaging in a wide range of illicit activities, including cybercrime and providing support for terrorism.

C. In contrast to organized crime, terrorism is inherently political.

- D. Terrorists are non-state actors.
- E. Politically motivated groups seek to subvert the status quo; criminally motivated groups have a stake in maintaining the status quo, so they can keep operating.
- F. Terrorism exploits non-combatant deaths as a means to advertise their cause.
- G. Terrorists do not expect to physically defeat a government.