

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
Department of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies

Course Details

Course Number and Name: **CCJ 4641 Organized Crime**

Semester: Spring 2026

Course Modality: Online

Credits: 3

Pre or Co-requisites: None

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. William Crawley

Email: wcrawley@uwf.edu

Office: Building 70, Room 109

Office Hours (and by appointment)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am – 9:30pm & 1pm – 2pm Zoom or via phone

Catalog Course Description

An exploration of major issues related to organized crime. Topics include historical aspects, theoretical perspectives, and criminal actions commonly associated with organized crime activities.

Required Text

Paoli, L. (2019). *The Oxford Handbook of Organized Crime*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190947323

- An eTextbook version of the text is also acceptable – ISBN 978-0199730445
- Additional supplementary reading materials will be provided throughout the course.
- A reserve copy of this text is available for review at the UWF Education Research Library - <https://libguides.uwf.edu/erl>

Course Topics

CCJ 4641 will explore and describe how organized criminal groups (OCGs) develop their capacities in response to heightened powers of law enforcement; and how law enforcement in turn responds, creating an ongoing dynamic interaction – ‘the 360 cycle’. Course topics include:

- Considering how to define and examine organized crime
- Historical overview and methods of organized crime, to include markets and activities frequently associate with organized crime
- Market patterns of activity, identification of most affected regions, factors promoting OGC activities, and consideration of victims and harms caused
- Reviews of specific OCGs histories, activities, and assessments of strength into the future
- Policies and practices designed to combat organized crime

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- Recognize how organized crime has and continues to function within society.

- Explain the typical organization, origin, business practices, and differences between domestic and international organized crime groups.
- Apply the theories for why organized crime exists and recognize the various forms of organized crime as they vary from society-to-society.
- Recognize how law enforcement controls organized crime.

Methods of Evaluation: Exams and Grading

- 10% Participation
- 40% Quizzes (4% each, grades will be calculated using the highest 10 quiz scores)
- 10% Review and Reflection on Recent Organized Crime (RRROC) Brief
- 30% Reflection Papers (15% for each of 2 papers)
- 10% Final Exam

Course Participation Policy:

Course lectures and interactions with the instructor and course peers provided throughout this course are essential elements to learning. Each student is expected to participate by being an active participant in overall course discussions of various topics (e.g., constructively contribute to discussion boards and group assignments, review course materials provided by instructor). In addition, individual and/or group meetings with the instructor may be scheduled throughout the course and it is important to attend these sessions prepared for discussions.

Quizzes:

There will be a minimum of 10 time-limited quizzes in this course. Each quiz must be completed by the date and time noted, and students must complete each quiz during the time allotted. Quizzes will cover the assigned readings and materials for the respective learning module (LM) (see Class Schedule at the end of this syllabus for dates).

Review and Reflection on Recent Organized Crime (RRROC) Brief:

Each student will review an online newspaper (domestic or international) and identify a recent report on an incident of organized crime or an organized criminal group (OCG). Thereafter, each student will develop a brief, assessing the article information using key course concepts.

Reflection Papers:

Each student will prepare two reflection papers using key course concepts— the first paper will focus on a specific organized crime group (OCG), and the second will focus on a specific organized crime market activity.

Final Exam:

There will be one exam for this course. Students must complete the exam during the assigned time unless other arrangements are made in advance. In *rare* circumstances, a student may contact the instructor to request permission to make up a missed exam.

Late Assignments

Assignments submitted late are subject to a penalty if the absence is not due to an approved University function. Guidelines on excused absences can be found in the UWF catalog in the section for Class Attendance <http://catalog.uwf.edu/undergraduate/classattendance/> which

specifies four reasons to excuse an absence and permit makeup work. Beyond this, faculty have discretion on how to treat illness-related absences in their courses. The Office of Case Management can assist with questions regarding the verification of illness as needed.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades will not be given *except* under extreme circumstances. Final, calculated letter grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

93% or more	A	77% to 79%	C+
90% to 92%	A-	73% to 76%	C
87% to 89%	B+	70% to 72%	C-
83% to 86%	B	67% to 69%	D+
80% to 82%	B-	60% to 66%	D
		59% or less	F

Minimum Technical Skills and Technology Requirements

There are no advanced technical skills or technology required for this course. Some assignments will require access to information via the internet and/or library. Moreover, students should:

- Activate a MyUWF student account.
- Access the MyUWF portal a minimum of 2-3 times each week.
- Access the UWF email account (Gmail) 2-3 times each week.
- Have basic word-processing knowledge.⁸

Course Behavior

Some topics discussed in this course will involve current events and issues that may raise emotions or spark debate. Students are expected to respect each other's views, not engage in argumentative conversations, and observe appropriate 'netiquette.' All course participants can add educational value to conversations professionally.

University Policy on Academic Conduct

The [Student Code of Conduct](#) (PDF) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The UWF Academic Misconduct Policy defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Additional Information on Plagiarism

Your writing is your intellectual property. Guard it carefully. You could find yourself in the unpleasant position of trying to prove that you are the true author of this work. Save preliminary drafts of your work, reading notes, data collection sheets, and copies of library sources you make while researching your paper. You may be asked to produce these if questions of authorship arise. Make back-up copies to protect your work from computer failures. I reserve the right to submit written assignments to the Turnitin service or use other methods to evaluate the originality of the

work submitted. I will remove personal identifiers from any electronic files I submit to the Turnitin database for evaluation.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic standards and will be punished severely. Students who plagiarize will fail the course and will be referred to the Dean of Students for academic dishonesty. Some students are surprised to learn that they plagiarized themselves when they inappropriately used work produced for one course in another course. If you are unsure, ask your instructor for guidance. See the UWF Student Planner and Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct for information about the University policy on academic conduct and plagiarism and the consequences for students who engage in academic misconduct.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of AI

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Dall-e) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine-tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts assigned to you or content that you put into a Zoom chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned you unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be appropriately documented and cited to stay compliant with university policies on academic dishonesty. See [Citing AI Content resources](#) and [ChatGPT and AI in Higher Education](#) for details on how to cite. You will choose the **APA 7th edition** for documenting and citing references in this course. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will be handled as any other case of academic misconduct. If in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

ADVICE AND RESOURCES TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED AT UWF

Managing Stress

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive and flourish you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources here on campus. If you experience a health concern, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172. If you experience mental health or substance use concerns, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420. In a mental health emergency, students can reach a counselor on call 24 hours a day by calling 850-474-2420 and following the prompts.

Assistance Reporting Discrimination

University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University that faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to UWF's Equity and Diversity office for additional resources at UWF Equity and Diversity Office.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with [Student Accessibility Resources](#) (SAR). Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Veterans Services

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center aids with the following: GI Bill® education benefits, active-duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550 or visit [Military & Veterans Resource Center | University of West Florida \(uwf.edu\)](#)

WEATHER EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of severe weather or other emergencies, the campus might be closed, and classes canceled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.

- WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the university. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.
- If hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and Argus will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes and the closing of the university.

For Your Protection

For those of you working in the criminal justice system in some capacity, it is understood that your statements, comments, and replies do not necessarily reflect your personal or professional beliefs and practices or reflect your agency. All statements, comments, and replies in this course are for educational purposes only and are to further and enhance the quality of the educational experience.

Subject to Change

This syllabus is subject to change as needed throughout the semester. If changes are necessary, they will be announced in the class via Canvas Announcements, and UWF email.

Course Communications

- Please be sure you read the announcement posted each week on Canvas.
- All assignments are due as noted in the class schedule.
- All assignments are to be completed and submitted before 11:59pm Central time on the noted due date (please note that internet problems and the like will not be acceptable, however, should Canvas become unavailable, appropriate adjustments will be provided).
- Grades will generally be posted on Canvas within one week of due dates.
- If you email the instructor with a question, comment, or concern about the class, you can expect a response within 24 hours during the week (unless previously indicated otherwise) and on Monday for emails received over the weekend. Note: Please include “CCJ4641” in the subject line of all emails to the professor. Conform to proper email etiquette and include your name in all emails.

IMPORTANT DATES AND CLASS SCHEDULE

- January 13 Drop/add period ends
- January 19 Martin Luther King’s Birthday (campus closed)
- February 3 Withdrawal deadline
- March 16-22 Spring Break
- April 27-May 2 Final exams (last day of classes)

This schedule is a plan; however, it is subject to change as the semester progresses.

Date	Class Topics & Readings	Assignments Due
Week One: January 7-9	• Introduction • Syllabus and course overview	• Introduce yourself to the class via ‘Discussion’ post (due Jan 10) • Review course syllabi
Week Two: January 12-16	• <i>Introduction</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 1-6) • Learning Module (LM): Definitions of Organized Crime	• Discussion Post 1 - ‘original’ post (due Jan 14) ‘response’ posts (due Jan 17) • LM quiz 1 (due Jan 17)

Week Three: January 19-23	• <i>Organized Crime: A Contested Concept</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 13-26) • LM: Organizing the Commission of Crimes	• Martin Luther King's Birthday (Jan 19) • LM quiz 2 (due Jan 24) • RRROC Brief (due Jan 24)
Week Four: January 26-30	• LM: Organizing Crime Markets	• Discussion Post 2 - 'original' post (due Jan 28) 'response' posts (due Jan 31) • LM quiz 3 (due Jan 31)
Week Five: February 2-6	• <i>Searching for Organized Crime in History</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 53-88) • LM: Infiltration of Organized Crime in Business	• LM quiz 4 (due Feb 7)
Week Six: February 9-13	• <i>How to Research Organized Crime</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 96-110) • LM: Conceptualizing and Measuring Organized Crime	• LM quiz 5 (due Feb 14) • OCG Reflection Paper (due Feb 14) = selected Paoli chapter (5 thru 12)
Week Seven: February 16-20	• <i>Theoretical Perspective on Organized Crime</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 32-49) • LM: Causes and Facilitating Factors of Organized Crime	• Discussion Post 3 - 'original' post (due Feb 18) 'response' posts (due Feb 21) • LM quiz 6 (due Feb 21)
Week Eight: February 23-27	• LM: Models of Organized Crime	• LM quiz 7 (due Feb 28)
Week Nine: March 2-6	• LM: Law Enforcement Tools and Cooperation	• Discussion Post 4 - 'original' post (due March 4) 'response' posts (due March 7) • LM quiz 8 (due March 7)
Week Ten: March 9-13	• LM: Prosecution Strategies	• LM quiz 9 (due March 14) • Organized Crime Market Activity Reflection Paper (due March 14)

		March 14) = selected Paoli chapter (17 thru 25) • Extra Credit - OGC Movie Review (due March 28)
March 16-20		• Spring Break (Mar 16-20)
Week Eleven: March 23-27	• LM: Sentencing and Confiscation in Organized Crime	• LM quiz 10 (due March 28)
Week Twelve: March 30–April 3	• <i>U.S. Organized Crime Control Policies Exported Abroad</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 545-566) • LM: International Cooperation to Combat Transnational Organized Crime	• Discussion Post 5 - ‘original’ post (due March 29) ‘response’ posts (due April 4) • LM quiz 11 (due April 4)
Week Thirteen: April 6-10	• <i>Organized Crime Control in the United States of America</i> (Paoli, 2019, pp. 529-541) • LM: Prevention of Organized Crime	• LM quiz 12 (due April 11)
Week Fourteen: April 13-17	• LM: Cyber Organized Crime	• Discussion Post 6 - ‘original’ post (due Feb 15) ‘response’ posts (due Feb 18)
Week Fifteen: April 20-24	• LM: Linkages between Organized Crime and Terrorism	• LM quiz 13 (due April 25)
Week Sixteen: April 27 - May 1	• Finals Week • Complete UNODC “Understanding Transnational Organized Crime” certificate	• Submit UNODC certificate (due May 1)