

**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice**

**CCJS498G: GANGS**

FALL 2022

Section 0101

Tues/Thurs 11:00am – 12:15pm

TYD 2106

**PROFESSOR**

Dr. Madoo

2213 Lefrak Hall

Email: [jmadoo@umd.edu](mailto:jmadoo@umd.edu)

Phone: 301-405-0172

Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the gang problem in the United States. It explores the nature of youth gangs, including issues with defining gangs, types of gangs, female gang involvement, and gang members' involvement in drugs, violence, and other crimes. It also examines the theory and methods of understanding gangs, social intervention and law enforcement strategies, and policy issues related to gangs.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and extent of youth gangs in America
2. Demonstrate an understanding of theoretical explanations of youth gangs.
3. Compare and analyze theoretical explanations of the causes, dynamics, and consequences of youth gangs.
4. Explore variations of gangs based on the offending population.
5. Understand the social responses to youth gangs through social intervention and law enforcement strategies.
6. Evaluate existing and past policies targeting youth gangs.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

CCJS100 and CCJS105

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Shelden, R. G., Tracy, S. K. & Brown, W. B. (2013). *Youth Gangs in American Society*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN-13: 9781133049562

**COURSE WEBSITE**

This class utilizes ELMS (Canvas) for distribution of important course information. The syllabus, extra reading material, class announcements, assignments, and grades will be posted on ELMS. You are strongly encouraged to access ELMS on a regular basis as you are responsible for knowing the material posted on the course website. **Please only use your UMD email account to communicate with me in this class.**

All students should enable ELMS notifications to your email and cell phone so you receive all posted information in a timely manner. You can set this up by clicking on the “Account” tab in ELMS. To access ELMS, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact the support desk at 301-405-1500. You must be registered for the class to access the course website.

**CAMPUS HEALTH SITUATIONS**

If campus health situations arise, Dr. Madoo reserves the right to alter the content, delivery, and structure of the assignments below, including percentages of assignments and assignment due dates, to rebalance the course appropriately.

**COURSE GRADING**

- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Group Project: 25%
- Gangs in the News Report: 10%
- Classroom Activities: 15%

A+ (97-100%)	B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<60%)
A (93-96%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)	D (63-66%)	
A- (90-92%)	B- (80-82%)	C- (70-72%)	D- (60-62%)	

\*Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point using the 0.50% threshold only\*

**EXAMS**

There will be two online exams this semester, a midterm and final exam, covering the assigned readings and weekly lectures. Exams will be in the format of true/false, multiple choice, and/or short answer questions. It is your responsibility to prepare for each exam by carefully reviewing the readings, as well as your lecture notes. Any questions about the exam material need to be emailed to me by 12:00pm (ET) the day before the exam. While you may refer to the readings and your own notes during an exam, if needed, you will only have 75 minutes to complete each exam. I strongly recommend you study prior to taking any exam in the class. You may not work with any other student on the exam as this is considered cheating.

Exams will be available in the Quizzes section on ELMS on assigned exam days. Please check the course schedule for these dates and plan to complete the exam during class time as no exams can be submitted after the class ends. You will only get one attempt to complete each exam. It is highly recommended you complete exams with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a zero.

There are no makeups for exams except in cases of excused absences which always require prior notice and documentation excusing the absence. Makeups may be in a different format from the exam given in class, but the content will be at the same level of difficulty as the standard version given to the class.

## **GROUP PROJECT**

Groups of 3-4 students will be assigned to research and present on a specific gang in the U.S. The research portion of the project will be in the format of a report (minimum 6-8 pages) and should include information on the origin and history of the gang, characteristics of the gang, recent cases involving the gang, and intervention strategies aimed at the gang. The project presentation will occur at the end of the semester and must be accompanied by visuals. Each student in the group must participate in both the research process and presentation. Detailed instructions for the project will be provided. **Project (final draft) due on ELMS on November 22, 2022, by 12:15pm.**

## **GANGS IN THE NEWS REPORT**

Students will be required to locate a news article(s) on a current gang issue in the U.S. (from 2010 or later) and produce a 2–3-page report on the findings. This assignment is to prepare you for some of the research required in the group project pertaining to gang cases. It is also imperative we stay knowledgeable on current gang issues in this class. Detailed instructions will be provided on ELMS. **Report due on ELMS on September 29, 2022, by 11:00am (start of class).**

Late reports will be accepted up to five (5) days after the deadline, with a 10% penalty per day it is late. No late reports will be accepted beyond then. Reports will not be accepted via email.

## **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

Students are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and participate in all classroom activities. Classroom activities may include discussions and debates, written assignments, reflections, surveys, quizzes, etc. To obtain credit for classroom activities, students must be present in class on the day and at the time the activities are assigned. There are no makeups for classroom activities, except in cases of excused absences which always require prior notice and acceptable forms of documentation excusing the absence. At the end of the semester, the lowest classroom activity grade will be dropped for each student.

## **COURSE RELATED POLICIES**

The University of Maryland expects each student to take full responsibility for their academic work and academic progress. As a student, you have the responsibility to be familiar with and uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Conduct, as well as for notifying your course instructors in a timely fashion regarding academic accommodations related to absences and accessibility. University policies outlined in the link below are particularly relevant to your experience in academic courses. Additionally, please review the policies specific to this course: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

## **MASK POLICY**

We will strictly adhere to the current university policies on masking in classrooms. Updates on masking requirements from the university will be posted on ELMS in accordance with university guidelines. Students are expected to always comply with current masking policies in the classroom. Students who fail to comply with the current university policies on masking will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and/or will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for failure to comply with a directive of university officials.

## **MAKEUP POLICY**

**Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require prior notice and documentation.** Excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, traffic/transit problems, miscalculating due dates, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify Dr. Madoo **prior** to missing a class or assignment for a makeup to be scheduled. All makeup assignments must be completed as soon as you return, preferably within 48 hours, but no later than one week of the missed assignment with approval from the course instructor. If you know in advance that you will be absent for a class or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify me at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to complete the exam or assignment prior to the due date.

Official documentation is always required. Students may, one time per course per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of a medically necessitated absence from a single class that does not coincide with a major graded assessment or assignment due date. For all other medically necessitated absences, students must provide verifiable documentation from a physician, upon request of the course instructor. Dr. Madoo reserves the right to verify all documentation submitted in this class. If a student is found providing false information, a referral will be made to the Office of Student Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to keep up with the required readings. Although lecture notes will not be shared or posted online, feel free to obtain lecture notes from a classmate upon your return.

## **GRADE DISPUTES**

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe I should review them, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail within **one week** after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

## **CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT**

This class is an inclusive learning environment. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in classroom activities. Students are expected to treat others with respect, as well as refrain from disruptive behaviors such as entering the classroom late, leaving the classroom early and/or repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, eating, reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using prohibited technological devices. Also, please note that cell phones are to be turned off or placed on silent during class.

Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the final grade you receive. Repeated tardiness to class will also be considered disruptive and may influence your final grade. If you do arrive late to class, please enter the classroom quietly and get started with the daily notes or assignment immediately so not to distract the class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

Students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and provide me with required ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. **After submitting your Accommodations Letter through the ADS portal, you are expected to reach out to Dr. Madoo via email to further discuss your specific accommodations. In some cases, you will be required to meet with Dr. Madoo, in person, to discuss how your accommodations will be applied in the course.** Please make sure all required ADS forms are submitted through the portal for me to review and confirm receipt by **September 12, 2022**.

ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Testing Office need to provide me with a testing form online **at least one week prior to each exam** or will have to take the exam at the same location as the rest of the class. The student is expected to schedule and take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class unless other accommodations have been approved by the instructor.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Unless instructed to use as part of an in-class activity, all technological devices are prohibited in this class including laptops, phones, gaming devices, etc. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, outside of a required in-class activity, you will be asked to leave class due to the disruptive behavior. See the classroom code of conduct section of this syllabus for more information on disruptive behavior. Exceptions to this policy will apply if a student has documented accommodations through ADS, has provided me with this documentation by **September 12, 2022**, and has obtained approval directly from me.

## **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES & ATHLETES**

If you are unable to attend class or take an exam due to a known religious observance or athletic obligation, you will need to discuss this with Dr. Madoo and submit the necessary documentation (signed religious letter, university athletic travel schedule, etc.) to excuse your absence by **September 12, 2022**. Failure to notify me by this date will result in the grade of a zero for the missed exam/assignment. It is your responsibility to arrange an alternative date with me to complete exams/assignments prior to the missed class.

## **COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Class lectures and other course materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than your personal use in this course without the permission of the course instructor. Course materials are the property of the course instructor – please do not sell them, do not post them on a website, do not take pictures or screenshots of them, and do not record them without documented permission from the course instructor. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Course Schedule & Reading Assignments** (subject to change)  
 Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date on the schedule.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading Assignments
1	T 8/30 TH 9/1	Course Introduction Myths & Realities of Youth Gangs	
2	T 9/6 TH 9/8	History of Gangs; What is a Gang?	Introduction; Chapter 1; ELMS Readings
3	T 9/13 TH 9/15	What Do Gangs Look Like? NYGS; Rural Gangs; Asian Gangs	Chapter 2; ELMS
4	T 9/20 TH 9/22	Why Are There Gangs? The Gang Subculture	Chapter 7 Chapter 3
5	T 9/27 TH 9/29	Code of the Streets <b>Gangs in the News Due 9/29 – 11:00am</b>	ELMS
6	T 10/4 TH 10/6	Gang Membership; Risk Factors Criminal Activities; Leaving the Gang	ELMS Chapter 4; ELMS
7	T 10/11 TH 10/13	<b>Midterm (online) Due 10/11 – 12:15pm</b> Group Project Meeting	
8	T 10/18 TH 10/20	Girls and Gangs Adult Gangs	Chapter 5; ELMS Chapter 6
9	T 10/25 TH 10/27	Gangs in Context: Inequality	Chapter 8
10	T 11/1 TH 11/3	Socialization; Joblessness; Urban Gangs, Violence, & Victimization	ELMS
11	T 11/8 TH 11/10	<b>Gang Project Drafts Due – 12:15pm</b> Legal Responses to the Gang Problem; Gang Trends and Homicide	Chapter 9; ELMS
12	T 11/15 TH 11/17	Intervention; Prevention; Final Words <b>ASC CONFERENCE – NO CLASS</b>	Chapters 10-11; ELMS
13	T 11/22 TH 11/24	<b>Gang Project Due 11/22 – 12:15pm</b> <b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS</b>	
14	T 11/29 TH 12/1	Group Presentations	
15	T 12/6 TH 12/8	Group Presentations	

**\*\*FINAL EXAM (ONLINE) – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022 – 8AM – 10AM\*\***