INSTRUCTORS
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TEACHING ASSISTANT
Ariella Gordon
Contact information TBA

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 PREREQUISITE
CCJS100 and CCJS105

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

COURSE WEBSITE
This class utilizes Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. To access Canvas, go to [http://elms.umd.edu](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 301-405-1400. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. The syllabus, extra reading material, class announcements, and grades will be posted on Canvas. You are strongly encouraged to access Canvas on a regular basis as you are responsible for knowing the material posted on the website. Please also monitor and use the email account associated with Canvas to communicate with me.
COURSE GRADING
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Group Project: 20%
Journal Assignments: 15%
Participation: 10%

Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

- 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%)

EXAMS
Exams will be multiple-choice with some true/false questions and will feature content from the assigned readings, weekly lectures, class discussions, and any other class activity (guest speakers, videos, student presentations). Exams will be completed without the use of notes, texts, computers, or additional aides. Exams will be non-cumulative and will not be curved in the course. You will need a #2 pencil and UID on exam days.

*Please note that if you arrive for an exam after the first person has completed and exited the lecture hall, you may not sit for the exam.

GROUP PROJECT
Groups of 4-5 students will be assigned to research and present on a specific gang in the U.S. The project will be 8-10 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. You must also relate concepts learned in class to the selected gang. Each student in the group must participate in the research process and presentation. Detailed instructions for the project will be provided.

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS
Students will be required to complete several journal assignments throughout the semester. Journal topics will be unannounced and determined at the discretion of the instructor. Topics will be related to the course material and may originate from current events, classroom discussions, videos, etc. Detailed instructions for journal assignments will be provided in class.

PARTICIPATION
Students are expected to attend class on time and participate. Although University policy does not allow grading based on attendance, you will need to attend classes regularly to ensure you obtain and understand the course material covered each week. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from a classmate. I do not post or hand out lecture notes regardless of circumstances.

EXTRA CREDIT
There will be one extra credit opportunity offered in the course for a maximum of 2% added to your total grade. Students will need to locate a current news article (no older than one year) and explain, in detail, how the article relates to at least three concepts covered in the course. The assignment should be 2-3 pages, double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font. A copy of the article and a full reference page in APA format is also required.
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. This request must be submitted within one week after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

MAKEUP POLICY
I have a very strict policy regarding makeup exams and assignments. No late assignments will be accepted in the course except in cases of excused absences. Assignments turned in more than 10 minutes after the beginning of class are considered late and will not be accepted. Assignments may not be submitted via email without prior permission. Assignments may be submitted early but if you are turning in an assignment on the day it is due, it must be submitted in class within the first 10 minutes.

In all cases of excused absences, official documentation is required. Exams and assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the new University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearances. I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness. If you go to the Health Center and a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so.

I must be notified in person or by phone PRIOR to missing an exam or assignment for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you have a problem on the day of an exam or on a day when an assignment is due, call me and I can advise you what to do. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or an assignment due date with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam/assignment. All makeup exams and assignments must be completed within one week of the missed exam/assignment.

DISABILITY SUPPORT
I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation Form. To receive documentation, please call DSS at 301-314-7682. This form must be presented to me no later than February 8, 2016. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than one week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES
If you are unable to take exams due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by February 8, 2016. Failure to notify me by this date will result in the grade of a zero for the missed exam/assignment.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semesters’ exams. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT
The success of this class is dependent not only on my ability to convey new and complicated ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn.

The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." This includes such things as leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, and pursuing side conversations during the course lecture. This also includes reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using laptops for non-academic functions (IM, e-mail, web surfing, etc.). Also, please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the grade you receive. Repeated tardiness to class lectures will also be considered disruptive and may influence your final grade.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY
All technological devices are prohibited in this class including: laptops, MP3 devices, smart phones, phones, calculators, gaming devices, etc. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, you will be asked to leave class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from you and you will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as zero and you will be referred to the Student Honor Council. The only exception to the use of technology policy is required accommodations through DSS.

ATHLETES
Official athletic schedules must be submitted to me by February 8, 2016. Practices do not count as an excused absence; in cases of an excused absence (e.g., a game), students are expected to arrange with me makeup exams/assignments. Athletes who miss exams/assignments due to games or other commitments, yet never submitted an official schedule by February 8, 2016, and never spoke with me, will receive a grade of zero for the relevant assignment.
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY
On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on the day a graded item is scheduled, the graded assignment will be rescheduled for the next class meeting in which the university is open. If a final exam is cancelled, I will follow university rules for rescheduling.

COURSE EVALUATIONS
Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the session. You can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations.

COPYRIGHT
The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).
## Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

(Subject to change)

Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date on the schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M 1/25</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>Myths &amp; Realities of Youth Gangs</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>M 2/1</td>
<td>History of Gangs</td>
<td>Introduction Chapter/See ELMS</td>
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<td>What is a Gang?</td>
<td>Chapter 1/See ELMS</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>M 2/8</td>
<td>What Do Gangs Look Like?</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>NYGS/Rural Gangs/Asian Gangs</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td><strong>Journal Entry # 1 Due</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>M 2/15</td>
<td>Why Are There Gangs?</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>The Gang Subculture</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>M 2/22</td>
<td>Code of the Streets</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>Gang Membership/Risk Factors</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>M 2/29</td>
<td>Leaving the Gang</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>Criminal Activities of Gangs</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td><strong>Journal Entry # 2 Due</strong></td>
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<td>M 3/7</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>M 3/14</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>M 3/21</td>
<td>Girls and Gangs</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Group Project Meeting</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>M 3/28</td>
<td>Adult Gangs</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>M 4/4</td>
<td>Gangs in Context</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Socialization/Joblessness</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>M 4/11</td>
<td>Urban Gangs, Violence, &amp; Victimization</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>National Gang Problem Trends</td>
<td>See ELMS</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>M 4/18</td>
<td>Legal Responses to the Gang Problem</td>
<td>Chapter 9/See ELMS</td>
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<td>Intervention/Prevention/Extra Credit Due</td>
<td>Chapter 10/See ELMS</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>M 4/25</td>
<td>Presentations/<em>Group Project Due</em></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>M 5/2</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>M 5/9</td>
<td>Final Words</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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**FINAL EXAM DATE/TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED**