

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

**CCJS498G: GANGS**

Fall 2018

Section 0101

Tues/Thurs 12:30pm – 1:45pm

TYD 1118

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Madoo

2213 Lefrak Hall

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

Phone: 301-405-0172

Office Hours: Weds 10:00am – 11:50am, Thurs 9:00am – 10:50am, and by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the gang problem in America. 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 PREREQUISITE**

CCJS100 and CCJS105

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

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. 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. 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 website. Please also monitor and use the UMD email account associated with ELMS to communicate with me.

## **COURSE GRADING**

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Group Project: 20%

Journal Assignments: 15%

Quizzes: 10%

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 consist of multiple-choice questions and will feature content from the assigned readings and content covered in the weekly lectures. Exams will be completed without the use of notes, textbooks, 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. In the case of makeup exams, the format will be different from the standard multiple-choice version given to the class.

\*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. This policy is non-negotiable.

## **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 including various due dates for each section. The final draft will be due on **November 20, 2018**.

## **JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will be required to complete several journal assignments throughout the semester. Journal topics will be 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.

## QUIZZES

Several announced quizzes will be given throughout the semester on the weekly readings in class. These quizzes will help you review the course material and prepare for the midterm and final exam. There are no makeups for quizzes, except in the cases of excused absences.

## PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend class on time and participate in the classroom. Participation will be tracked throughout the semester through a variety of classroom activities. In order to obtain participation credit, students must be present in class on the day the activities are assigned, except in cases of excused absences.

## MAKEUP POLICY

No late assignments will be accepted in the course except in cases of excused absences. **Assignments turned in more than 10 minutes late will not be accepted.** Assignments may **not** be submitted via email without prior permission.

Makeup exams and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. 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 immediate family, and required court appearances. The student must notify the instructor **prior** to missing an exam or assignment in order for a makeup to be scheduled. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam 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 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. Official documentation is always required. Students may, one time per course per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of an absence from a single class that does not coincide with a major assessment or assignment due date. For all other medically necessitated absences, students must provide documentation from a physician or the University Health Center, upon request of the course instructor.

Although University policy does not allow grading based on attendance, in order to succeed in this class, you will need to attend 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 as lecture notes will not be posted or handed out regardless of circumstances.

## 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.

## **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>

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized *Code of Academic Integrity* which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. **As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism.** In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated.

## **CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class, to be actively engaged in classroom activities, and to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected to treat others with respect, as well as refrain from disruptive behaviors such as entering the classroom late, leaving the classroom 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 grade you receive. Repeated tardiness to class lectures 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. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Unless instructed to use as part of an in-class activity, 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. The only exception to the use of technology policy is if a student has required documented accommodations through ADS and has provided me with this information by **September 12, 2018**.

## **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES & ATHLETES**

If you are unable to attend class or take an exam due to a religious observance or athletic obligation, you will need to discuss this with me and submit the necessary documentation to excuse your absence by **September 12, 2018**. Failure to notify me by this date will result in the grade of a zero for the missed exam/assignment.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT**

Students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and who provide me with required ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. **After receiving an Accommodations Letter from ADS, you are expected to meet with each course instructor, in person,** to provide them with a copy of the *Accommodations Letter* and to obtain their signature on the *Acknowledgement of Student Request* form. The *Accommodations Letter* must be presented to me no later than **September 12, 2018**. 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 three business days prior to each exam** or will have to take the exam with the rest of the class in our regular classroom location. Saturday and Sunday are **not** business days. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class, unless other accommodations have been approved by the instructor.

## **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 – do not sell them, do not post them on a website, do not take pictures 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.

**Class Schedule & Reading Assignments** (Subject to change)  
 Reading assignments are to be completed before Tuesday's class each week.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	8/28-8/30	Course Introduction Myths & Realities of Youth Gangs	
<b>2</b>	9/4-9/6	History of Gangs; What is a Gang?	Introduction; Chapter 1; ELMS
<b>3</b>	9/11-9/13	What Do Gangs Look Like? NYGS; Rural Gangs; Asian Gangs;	Chapter 2; ELMS
<b>4</b>	9/18-9/20	Why Are There Gangs? <b>Quiz #1 9/18</b> <b>Journal #1 Due 9/20</b>	Chapter 7
<b>5</b>	9/25-9/27	The Gang Subculture; <b>Quiz #2 9/25</b>	Chapter 3; ELMS
<b>6</b>	10/2-10/4	Code of the Streets; Gang Membership; Risk Factors; <b>Journal #2 Due 10/4</b>	ELMS
<b>7</b>	10/9-10/11	Leaving the Gang; Criminal Activities of Gangs; <b>Group Assign. #1 Due 10/11</b>	Chapter 4; ELMS
<b>8</b>	10/16-10/18	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 10/16</b> <b>Group Assign. #2 Due 10/18</b>	
<b>9</b>	10/23-10/25	Girls and Gangs	Chapter 5; ELMS
<b>10</b>	10/30-11/1	Adult Gangs; <b>Journal #3 Due 10/30;</b> <b>Quiz #3 11/1</b>	Chapter 6
<b>11</b>	11/6-11/8	Gangs in Context; Socialization; Joblessness; Urban Gangs, Violence, & Victimization; <b>Group Assign. #3 Due 11/8</b>	Chapter 8; ELMS
<b>12</b>	11/13-11/15	National Gang Problem Trends; Legal Responses; <b>Quiz #4 11/13;</b> <b>ASC – NO CLASS 11/15</b>	Chapter 9; ELMS
<b>13</b>	11/20-11/22	Intervention; Prevention; Final Words <b>Group Project Due 11/20</b> <b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS 11/22</b>	Chapter 10; Chapter 11; ELMS
<b>14</b>	11/27-11/29	Group Presentations	
<b>15</b>	12/4-12/6	Group Presentations	

**\*\*FINAL EXAM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 1:30 – 3:30PM TYD 1118\*\***