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Syllabus for CJ 380, Section WS1

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs – Online

Department of Criminal Justice Studies

Winter Session

December 18, 2023-January 7, 2024

# About the Instructor

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Virtual Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m. CST (Zoom link in Blackboard)

## Welcome

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with issues surrounding outlaw motorcycle gangs in the United States and other countries.

This is an online-only winter session course. Course readings, lecture videos, PowerPoint slides, and supplemental videos will be posted in Blackboard. You are to read the textbook chapters, view all videos, and complete the corresponding summary assignments and discussions by the end of each week. This winter session course moves quickly, so make sure you keep up with the course content and due dates that are outlined below.

## **Bio**

I received my doctorate in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. My teaching interests focus on the corrections system, capital punishment and international and organized crime. My research has been focused on LGBT issues in criminal justice education, publishing in the Journal of Criminal Justice Education and The Handbook of LGBT Communities, Crime, and Justice.

## **Communicating with the instructor**

Email communication is preferred. You can expect a response within 48 hours. Virtual office hours are every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom. The link is available in Blackboard.

# About the Course

## **Course description**

This class will examine the issue of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. The focus will be on the subculture, criminal activity, organizational structure, law enforcement response, and overall role that Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs have played in society.

## **Prerequisite knowledge and credit hours**

This course is worth 3 credit hours.

## **Course goals and objectives**

* Examine the impact of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs in the United States, Canada, and Europe.
* Discuss the subculture, criminal activity, and organizational structure of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.
* Analyze law enforcement response to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs in the US and abroad.
* Recognize the role that Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs have played in society.

## **Course textbooks**

*Biker Gangs and Transnational Organized Crime*, 2nd edition. Thomas Barker.    
  
Undergraduate students can rent textbook from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](http://www.siue.edu/muc/textbooks.shtml) for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option “Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these.” Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

## **Other course materials**

Additional course materials will be posted in Blackboard.

# Course requirements

## **Course activities/assessments**

1. Chapter summary questions: There are summary questions associated with each chapter. Students are expected to read the chapter, review the PowerPoints, watch the recorded lectures, and then respond in writing to the summary questions associated with the chapter. Each assignment is worth 20 points.

2. Discussion boards: There are discussion boards set up for each documentary video students are expected to watch. All students are asked to contribute to each discussion of the videos. Participation in discussion boards is required. Please be respectful to your fellow students’ opinions when making comments on the discussion boards. There are 7 discussion boards and each discussion board is worth 10 points.

## **Submitting work**

All work should be submitted in Blackboard by the posted due dates.

## **Online discussions**

Please be respectful to your fellow students’ opinions when making comments on the discussion boards.

## **Online class behavior**

* + **Reflect** before you post an emotional response and reread what you have written to be sure it is professional. Communicate as if your comments are printed in a newspaper.
  + **Communicate** effectively**.**
  + Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.).
  + Be sure to define or explain acronyms, jargon or uncommon terms so everyone can understand and participate in the discussion.
  + **Sign your name.** Take responsibility for your comments in order to build a strong classroom community.
  + **Foster community.** Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course.
  + **Be constructive.** Challenge ideas and the course content, but do so in positive ways. It’s fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate and encourage helpful discussion, and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.
  + **Keep the conversation** **on topic**. Online dialogue is like conversation. If there is a particular dialogue going on, please add to it, but if you have something new to say, start a new thread.

## Technology requirements

Technical requirements for students can be found in this [ITS Knowledge Base article](https://kb.siue.edu/104656).

## Technology capabilities

Students in an online course should be able to:

* Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in class
* Attach files to emails or course areas
* Navigate websites and course materials
* Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

Additional guidance for taking online courses can be found on the [Online at SIUE site](https://www.siue.edu/online/planning-preparation/index.shtml).

# Course and University policies

## Academic integrity/plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml). Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University’s Student Academic Conduct Code](http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml).

## Grading

1. Summary questions: Each chapter summary is worth 20 points.
2. Discussion boards: Each discussion board is worth 10 points.

## Grading scale

There are 270 points possible in the class.

Grade Scale: A = 270-243 points

B = 242-216 points

C = 215-189 points

D = 188-162 points

F = < 161 points

## Feedback and grading timeline

Credit for discussion board posts and summary writing assignments will be recorded within one week of the posted due date.

## Late or Missed Assignments

Late work will not be accepted.

Participation

This is an online class. Students will be expected to complete all assignments during the times they are made available through Blackboard. All lecture videos, PowerPoints, and other assignments will be made available at the beginning of the course, so you’re welcome to work ahead.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

Regular and substantive interaction (RSI) is required as part of new U.S. Department of Education regulations for distance (online) education and it supports student learning in all learning environments (online, face-to-face, hybrid, hyflex, etc.). SIUE faculty participate in RSI by initiating frequent and timely opportunities to engage with students. Because there are several ways to implement RSI, such as facilitating online discussions, scheduling a Zoom conference with a student, or holding regularly scheduled review sessions before tests, RSI may look different in every class. To learn more about RSI, use the Online Tips links for Faculty and Students in your Blackboard course websites or visit the Faculty Resources for Regular and Substantive Interaction webpage.

### Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

### Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University’s Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

### Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include changes in course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online) or in course scheduled meetings. These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course. In these cases, students will be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

## Services for Students Needing Accommodations

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at [myaccess@siue.edu](mailto:myaccess@siue.edu) or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726).

## Diversity and Inclusion

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone’s dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Hub <https://www.siue.edu/csdi> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or [jball@siue.edu](mailto:jball@siue.edu). There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at <https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10>.

# Additional Support

## Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

* [Lovejoy Library Resources](http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/)
* [Academic Success Sessions](https://www.siue.edu/retention/programs/sass.shtml)
* [Tutoring Resource Center](https://www.siue.edu/lss/tutoring-resource-center/)
* [The Writing Center](http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml)
* [Academic Advising](http://www.siue.edu/advising/)
* [Financial Aid](https://www.siue.edu/financialaid/)
* [Campus Events](http://www.siue.edu/events/)
* [Counseling Services](https://www.siue.edu/counseling/)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

## Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting [cougarcare.siue.edu](http://cougarcare.siue.edu/) or by calling [618-650-2842](tel:618-650-2842).

## Student Success Coaches

[Student success coaches](https://www.siue.edu/retention/about/meet-us.shtml?section=coaches) work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize [Starfish](https://www.siue.edu/its/starfish/) to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.

## Technical Support

Since this is an online course, you are expected to have reliable Internet access on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to address any computer problems that might occur. Such problems are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations or for missing course deadlines.

Contact ITS at [618-650-5500](mailto:618-650-5500) or at [help@siue.edu](mailto:help@siue.edu) with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](https://status.siue.edu/), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](http://kb.siue.edu) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

Tips for taking online assessments:

* Set up a wired (Ethernet) Internet connection on your computer
* Do not use a mobile device, such as a phone or tablet
* Read the instructions and directions carefully
* Be prepared to complete the assessment in the allotted time

# Course Schedule:

| **Week** | **Learning Activities** | **Assignments** | **Due Dates**  **All due at 11:59 pm CST** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1**  Chapter 1 - Introduction  Chapter 2 – Enter the One-Percenters  Chapter 3 – Evolution from Clubs to Gangs  Chapter 4 – Outlaw Motorcycle Club: Criminal Organization Continuum | * Read syllabus and view course introduction video * Read Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 * Watch Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4 lecture videos and view PPT slides * View documentary videos on Hells Angels, Joining an Outlaw MC, and the Outlaws | * Ch. 1 Summary Questions * Ch. 2 Summary Questions * Hells Angels discussion board * Ch. 3 Summary Questions * Joining an Outlaw MC discussion board * Outlaws discussion board * Ch. 4 Summary Questions | Sunday, 12/24 |
| **Week 2**  Chapter 5 – U.S. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs: Big Five, Major Independents, and Others  Chapter 6 – U.S. Based OMGs: Criminals without Borders  Chapter 7 – The Hells Angels Are No Angels: Organized Crime, Death, and Mayhem in Canada | * Read Chapters 5, 6, and 7 * Watch Ch. 5, 6, and 7 lecture videos and view PPT slides * View documentary videos on the Pagans and Mongol Nation | * Ch. 5 Summary Questions * Ch. 6 Summary Questions * Pagans discussion board * Ch. 7 Summary Questions * Mongol Nation discussion board | Sunday, 12/31 |
| **Week 3**  Chapter 8 – Bikers Down Under: OMGs in Australia and New Zealand  Chapter 9 – Back Patch Clubs in the United Kingdom  Chapter 10 – Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs in Europe | * Read Chapters 8, 9, and 10 * Watch Ch. 8, 9, and 10 lecture videos and view PPT slides * View documentary videos on New Zealand bikers and English bikers | * Ch. 8 Summary Questions * New Zealand biker discussion board * Ch. 9 Summary Questions * English biker discussion board * Ch. 10 Summary Questions | Sunday, 1/7 |

# **Subject to change notice**

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.