

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, Virginia

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Instructor: Daniel Reilly

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Office Hours: By Appointment (available ½ hour before or after class)

CRIM 490 Gang Crimes meets Thursday afternoon from 4:30 PM to 7:10 PM in Planetary Hall Rm. 224

Course Description

This course is a special topics class which concentrates on the urban and youth gang problems in our community. It is designed to provide the student with effective methods and tools for confronting and thwarting gang violence in neighborhoods. These gangs establish themselves as corrupt entities in neighborhoods. They thrive by establishing a criminal enterprise which extracts financial resources from the neighborhood. You will learn how to prioritize criminal investigations of gang crime how to disrupt their activity and how to eventually dismantle them through effective prosecution in court.

You will become acquainted with the sociological phenomenon which leads young people into gang membership as well as the mores or rules gangs rely on to maintain their own existence and their stranglehold on a community. Additionally, you will learn about the importance of focusing on hierarchy/leadership personalities and the modus operandi as a way of identifying the structure of gang enterprises.

You will learn that if we ignore the positive lessons of the past we are doomed to failure in the future. You will study successful prosecutions of gangs in the past 50 years to learn how law enforcement can prevail. You will be taught appropriate criminal investigative responses that are most effective in reducing violence and disrupting the illegal business enterprises used by gangs to fund and continue their illegal activities.

You will be introduced to some of the most important research studies on the Sociology and Psychology of Urban Gangs in this country.

You will learn how to coordinate the use of crime scene examinations and physical evidence recovery to provide the kind of forensic science “connectivity” needed to successfully prosecute a Gang. You will learn to link individual crimes together by ballistics examinations, fingerprint examination, trace evidence examinations like serological fluids. You will see how DNA profiles may be extracted and can provide valuable scientific evidence verifying the connection of gang members to their individual crimes.

Finally, you will be introduced to State and Federal statutes that have proven most effective when prosecuting individual gang members and gang conspiracies. You will learn about State and Local statutes that provide law enforcement with a tactical advantage for tackling the problem head on. Then you will be introduced to federal statutes that specifically allow the targeting of gangs as “singular criminal enterprises” where leaders and high-level members all face significant criminal penalties for their conspiratorial conduct. This strategy puts significant prosecutorial pressure on knowledgeable insiders, who are at lower levels in the gang structure. You will be able to see how this process leads to the “co-opting” of these lower tiered members who will then become cooperating insider witnesses. By following this plan the gang will ultimately collapse on itself.

Number of Credits: Three (3)

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbook: Finding the Truth with Criminal Investigation Suspect, Subject, Defendant Rowan and Littlefield Lanham Md. This book is available at the GMU Bookstore and can be purchased on the internet from the publisher’s web site.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you will be able to understand what it takes to establish an effective investigative plan or strategy for confronting a violent gang and begin the process of disrupting, or dismantling the operations which corrupt the neighborhood and or community victimized by gang activity. You will be called upon to research special topics related to gang leadership, effective gang prosecutions, and sociological research in the field that can be relevant to curbing the impact of violent gangs on our community.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to provide you with an understanding of why persons join and support gangs, and more importantly establishing criteria for deciding which gangs should be targeted for extensive investigation, and which gangs can be disrupted effectively without wasting significant law enforcement resources.

Course Goals and Policies

Please be aware of Mason's policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. There are, however, several extra credit opportunities available (more details later). Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete scheduled coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do extra work to raise your grade. If some sort of personal or family crisis arises for you during the semester, and it provides a compelling reason that is beyond your control and prevents you from finishing scheduled coursework, I will be more than willing to work with you to take that into account, but you must let me know right away. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that according to Mason policy, "Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities." (See page 33 of the University Catalog.)

Privacy Policy

You are to respect the privacy of any fellow students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Grading Scale

Below is the numeric equivalent of the letter grades which will be used in this class.

A+ = 97%-100%

A = 93%-96%

A- = 90%-92%

B+ = 87%-89%

B = 83%-86%

B- = 80%-82%

C+ = 77%-79%

C = 73% -76%

C- = 70%-72%

D = 60%-69%

F =0%-59%

Course Grade Components

The final grade will be determined as follows. Two research papers will be assigned to each student and each student will prepare a power point presentation on one of the two topics assigned. Two quizzes will be assigned on Black Board to assess the retention of important facts discussed in class.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Research Paper #1-6 pages on the assigned topic-25% of the final grade

Research Paper #2-6 pages on the assigned topic-25% of the final grade

Power point presentation on one of the above topics-25% of the final grade

3 Quizzes-15% of the final grade

Attendance and Participation-10%

Special topic research papers 10 pages will be considered if the student chooses to consider Extra Credit work. Items for research will be Constitutional issues in Gang investigations. Special credit will be evaluated based on the quality of the submission, up to 20 % of the final grade.

The Exams

No final exam is anticipated at this time.

Level of Effort

You're Participation, Your Learning Experience, and Your Grade

This class will offer you some unique opportunities, but you've got to be fully engaged in order to benefit from them. **That means coming to class, paying attention, taking notes, and reading the readings and the textbook.** In addition to the reading materials, everything that happens in the classroom is also fair game for the quizzes, whether it provides documentation (such as Power Points) or not. That includes guest speakers, videos, and my lectures. If you miss classroom activities through either absence or inattentiveness, you can expect your grades to suffer because you won't have learned the material you need to know in order to do well on the quizzes, projects and assignments.

To encourage you to make the most of this class, 15% of your course grade will be based on my evaluation of your level of effort in the classroom. If you miss few or no classes and are alert and involved in the class (asking and answering questions, offering comments, etc.), your active participation may be rewarded with a bump up on your final course grade. In addition to the 15% participation component. If you come to class pretty regularly and sit quietly, the level of effort component probably won't change your course grade. If you miss a lot of classes or spend much of your time in the classroom sleeping or engaged in distractions (such as talking to your classmates viewing your cell phone etc.), you can expect your course grade to suffer for it. Your grade will suffer based on your failure to be part of the team.

During the course of this semester you will be provided handouts detailing certain aspects of gang investigations. These handouts will be posted on Black Board these are important course materials and summaries of lectures and therefore may be the basis for quiz questions.

Finally, when you submit any written document to me for grading it is expected that the document will be written in clear and coherent prose. Documents submitted that have not been properly edited and revised for proper grammar and spelling will be returned for correction and your final grade will suffer if it is not properly reviewed. This is not an English composition class, but if I can't understand what you write you will receive a poor grade. Well written narratives and prose are the hallmark of a productive Law enforcement professional. If you know that your ability to write is weak or sloppy take advantage of **the GMU writing lab** to make a last-minute edit on your submission before you send it to me. This will also be helpful if you have not taken an English Composition class. Effective report writing and preparation of court documents are required of Law

Enforcement professionals. Your reputation for competence in communicating with the written word is essential to your progression in this field.

Instructional Methodology

This course will use a traditional lecture format to present a fair amount of the course content, coupled with class participation and discussion. You will be expected to participate in an in-depth research topic as diverse as biographies of Gang Leaders to Non-Fiction books detailing the criminal activity of specific gangs which will require a comprehensive report covering the answers to specific questions. You will then choose one of your topics to provide an in-class lecture to introduce your colleagues to the results of your research.

You are responsible for all assignments and are to be prepared for the following week's reading. Sufficient time should be allocated in preparing for course discussion.

Blackboard

We'll use Mason's on line's Blackboard program (version 8) for instructions and grades on Homework assignments. Other necessary course materials, such as the syllabus, hand outs and power point presentations will be available on the Course Materials section. You will be responsible for two quizzes on course lectures which will be "open book/open source" quizzes designed to high light class discussions and concepts provided in the textbook. We will discuss further uses in class.

Here is how to access Blackboard:

Go to: courses.gmu.edu

Log on using your email username and 8-digit password. If your email account is dreilly5.gmu.edu, then your username is dreilly5.

If you've never used Blackboard before and need some assistance, there is a student resource guide available at <http://tap.gmu.edu/bbstudentguide.pdf>. You can get personal assistance by calling 993-8870 or emailing courses@gmu.edu.

*I use Office 2016, so if you haven't upgraded from 2003 yet go to Microsoft's website and download the free compatibility pack so you can access the PPTs and other files. If you're using Office 2010, they should be compatible. **The following summary is my planned discussions listed by date. Some minor changes may be made to the schedule based on the work produced by the class.***

Date	Discussion Plan	Goals/Projects
JAN. 23	DEFINITIONS AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE and STRUCTURE	Practical, Legal, Sociological <u>Assign 1st Research Paper</u> Pyramid, Conference, and “Wal-mart” style Read textbook Chapters 1-8 Pay particular attention to Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 Quiz 1
Jan. 30	LEADERSHIP Rules, Mores and Ethics PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES Homicides?	Psychopathic, Entrepreneurial, Charismatic <u>INTO THE ABYSS</u> by Michael Carlie <u>AMERICAN STREET GANG</u> by Malcolm Klein
Feb. 6	NATIONAL GANG INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGIES ENTERPRISES-THE GANG BUSINESS MODEL REVIEW	URBAN STREET GANGS TO OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE Historical, Forensic “driven” Informant “driven” Covert
Feb. 13	TASK FORCES AND LEGAL STRATEGIES ILLEGAL DRUGS INFORMANTS	Drug Power Point Informant Power Point
FEB. 20	No Class	

Feb. 27	COOPERATORS	Arrests, "Jump Outs" Interagency cooperation 2nd Research Paper Assigned. Quiz 1 is due.
March 5	Interrogations and Debriefings of insiders	Power Point Intense Relationship
March 12	Spring Break	Class Power Point presentation assignments. Due starting April 16th Quiz #2
March 19	Guest Speaker RICO AND ITAR CRIMES OF VIOLENCE Forensic Science Scientific Links	WORKING THE Scene Chapters on Black Board and Forensic Quiz. Power Point Ballistics, Trace Evidence, Modus Operandi
March 26	SEARCH WARRANTS TARGETING GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT AND STRATEGIC POSSIBILITIES	Power point Prioritization Quiz #2 is due Quiz #3 Court Processes
April 2	Federal Task forces Safe Streets, REDRUM, Fugitive Task forces etc.	Operational considerations MOU and Jurisdictional disputes Deconfliction of investigations
April 9	Covert SURVEILLANCE INVESTIGATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY TITLE III	Power Points
April 16	INVESTIGATIVE TIMELINE	Prosecutorial report supported by Incident files PRESENTATIONS Quiz 3 is due

April 23	UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS STATE GANG STATUTES	Danger, Operational imperatives, Mirroring actions of the enterprise Virginia, Maryland, Michigan, California PRESENTATIONS
April 30	INTELLIGENCE	Crime Reports, Geo- Coding, Source support for actionable intelligence PRESENTATIONS
May 7		PRESENTATIONS FINAL Research Paper due.
FINAL EXAM DAY?		PRESENTATIONS

Bad Weather and Other Emergencies

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.

University Services and Resources

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

On your written research papers, you will be required to write and report your findings if **I** can't read and understand your prose you will not be successful in this class. If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, **seek assistance from the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>)**. **Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.**

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute (eli.gmu.edu).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services caps.gmu.edu/learning-services. They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs.

Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see registrar.gmu.edu. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. **If you enroll late** it is your responsibility to complete any assignments, you may have missed in class or on Black Board. Make an effort to establish a relationship with fellow students in class so you can get caught up on assignments you may miss **when and if you miss class**. Failure to meet deadlines on assignments will cause grades on those assignments to suffer.

University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason 's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and honorcode.gmu.edu for additional information. Mason 's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge." Examples of plagiarism include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism.

Lying includes "the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work." Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn't really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Stealing includes "taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of

Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials. "

GMU Calendar

First Day of Spring Classes: Payment Due Date	Tue. Jan 21/ Thurs. Jan.23 Crim 490
Last Day to Submit Domicile Reclassification Application	Tue. Jan 21
Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Tue. Jan 28
Last Day to Drop with 100% Refund	Wed. Feb 5
Last Day to Drop (Last Day for 50% Refund)	Tue. Feb 11
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period	Wed. Feb 12 – Mon. Feb 24
Mid-term Evaluation Period: 100-200 level classes - Grades Available via PatriotWeb	Mon. Feb 17 – Fri. Mar 20
Selective Withdrawal Period - Undergraduate Students Only (100% tuition liability)	Tue. Feb 25 – Mon. Mar 30
Spring Recess: No Classes	Mon. Mar 9- Sun. Mar 15
Incomplete Work from Fall 2019 Due to Instructor	TBD
Incomplete Grade Changes from Fall 2019 Due to Registrar	TBD
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri. May 1
Reading Day(s): Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	Tue. May 5
Last Day of Class	Mon. May 4
Examination Period	Wed. May 6 – Wed. May 13
University Commencement	Fri. May 15

CONTACT INFORMATION:

George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials. "

I communicate regularly with students through email, using your Mason email account. You really need to stay on top of your Mason email. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for information on how to use your account. If you prefer to use another email account, just make sure you've set up the necessary forwarding, so you'll receive emails I send to your Mason account. I check my email many times a day, so that's both the quickest and the surest way to reach me. Also here is my telephone number **(703)795-4713** if you have to get a hold of me immediately.