

COURSE OUTLINE **Gang Investigation**

Course Description

AJ 118. Gang Investigation. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to examine the origins, structures, operations, and problems associated with urban street gangs. The student will also explore law enforcement counter measures and the investigation of gang-related crimes.

Course Relevance

The principles learned in the course will allow the student to understand the nature and associations of gangs and crime.

Required Materials

Delaney, T. (2006). *American street gangs*. (1st ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of gangs
2. Identify and describe different types of gangs including small, regional and national
3. Discuss societal and law enforcement techniques and strategies to combat gangs

Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following PACT skill areas:

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Problem Solving
 - The student will develop problem solving skills through the identification of gang structure and activities, the theoretical explanations of gang behaviors, and the subsequent methods of crime prevention and social policy implications associated with those behaviors.
2. Critical Thinking
 - The student will develop critical thinking and analytical skills through written assignments and other activities conducted in class.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Completing a written assignment documenting the student's ability to identify gang organizations, apply theoretical explanations for their existence, and discuss prevention and suppression strategies

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Identification of gangs and gang members
 - B. Theoretical explanations of gang behavior
 - C. Discussion of methods of gang prevention, suppression and treatment
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Understanding the complexity of gang behavior
 - B. Distinguishing characteristics of socio-theoretical explanations of gangs
 - C. Identification of gang prevention and intervention methods
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Definition of gangs
 - B. Description of different types of gangs
 - C. History of gangs
 - D. Understanding gang structure and process
 - E. Gang prevention, suppression and treatment
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Describe the basic concepts associated with gang activity
 - B. Discuss the theoretical explanations of gang behavior
 - C. Identify gang intervention programs

Learning Units

- I. What is a gang?
 - A. Definition of a gang
 - B. General descriptions of gangs and gang members
 - C. Statistics on gangs
- II. History of gangs
 - A. The birth of street gangs
 - B. Mid-1800s street gangs
 - C. The civil war period
 - D. The early to mid-1900s gang
 - E. Contemporary gangs
- III. Theoretical explanations of gangs
 - A. Biological and psychological theories
 - B. Sociological theories
 - C. Socioeconomic theories
- IV. Gang structure and process
 - A. Gang structure
 - B. Socialization of a gang member
 - C. Code of the street
- V. Local, regional and super-sized street gangs
 - A. American rural youth gangs

- B. Local and regional gangs
 - C. Super-sized gang nations
- VI. Female gangs
- A. Female gang participation
 - B. Types of female gangs
 - C. Relationships with male gangs
 - D. Gang families
- VII. Criminal activities of street gangs
- A. Drug use, sale, and distribution
 - B. Violence
 - C. Homicide
 - D. Other criminal activities
- VIII. Gang prevention, suppression, and treatment
- A. Prevention strategies
 - B. Suppression strategies
 - C. Gang treatment programs
- IX. Implications for the future
- A. Recent legislation to combat gangs
 - B. Pending legislation

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be assigned to assist the student in achieving the intended learning outcomes through lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, hands-on activities, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, student presentations and others at the discretion of the instructor.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on learning activities and assessment tasks. Grade determinants may include the following: written assignments, exams, quizzes, study guides, student activity assignments, discussion questions, class participation, and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.