

FYS 101-15 • The Business of Organized Crime • Fall 2017

Professor Michael Harvey

Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 – 2:15 pm
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Classroom: Goldstein 218
Office hours: MWF 10:30-11:45, and by appointment

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1. INTRODUCTION

Did you know that al-Qaeda fighters submit expense reports and earn vacation days? This course introduces the surprisingly businesslike world of organized criminal enterprises. Examples include the Italian Mafia, the Japanese Yakuza, Latin American drug cartels, pirates, and gangs. The study of organized crime, drawing on diverse materials (first-person accounts, interviews, sociological research, criminal investigation, journalism, fiction, as well as documentaries, movies, and TV shows), can help us recognize and understand the core challenges that all organizations face: the division of labor, external competition, internal power struggles, culture, structure, innovation, and sustainability. Student work will consist primarily of reading, discussion, research, and writing essays. The most important elements of the class: careful reading, critical thinking, courageous discussion, good listening, and clear writing.

2. LEARNING GOALS

- Gain familiarity with key issues and challenges in the area of organized crime in the United States and around the world.
- Learn how to conduct research using peer-reviewed scholarship and other materials, and how to write research papers in accordance with scholarly conventions and expectations. At the same time, gain facility in writing that displays clarity, action, and simplicity.
- Practice oral presentation and teamwork skills.
- Contribute to other students' learning by sharing your insights and questions, listening actively, and contributing to a collegial and collaborative environment in the classroom.
- Have fun in the pursuit of knowledge.

3. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Attendance and participation.....	200
2. Library assignment	50
3. Three short essays, each 50 points.....	150
4. Occasional reading quizzes	150
5. Student research presentation	150
6. Final essay	250
7. Other: attendance at student-selected WC events.....	50
Total	1,000 points

Attendance and participation. Attendance is required. All students are allowed to miss two classes for any reason. After that, any missed class will lead to a 1% deduction in your overall grade (i.e., 10 points out of our 1,000 total). Participation is expected; if you find it difficult for you to participate in a way satisfactory to you, or at a level that receives a participation grade you're comfortable with, please see me to discuss strategies and alternatives.

Library assignment. Pick a topic pertaining to organized crime anywhere around the world. (1) Find a book in our catalog on that topic. (2) Find an online scholarly, peer-reviewed article, using Miller Library's databases, on the topic. (3) Find a useful context-setting article on Wikipedia or another encyclopedia or basic reference on the topic. (4) Find a popular article (like a newspaper or magazine article or blog post) on the topic. For each one, write a short, paragraph-long summary and include a proper citation, using APA or MLA format. Write this up as a two-page document (with this format and order: your topic, book, peer-reviewed article, encyclopedia article, popular article) and submit to Canvas.

Short essay 1. See due date and time in schedule below. A 4-5-page (about 1100 to 1400 words) paper on our first book. This is not a research paper, but a reaction to and reflection on the book. You may, if you wish, do additional reading and research in order to develop your thoughts and analysis, but you may also confine yourself to the information in the book itself. What would a good paper be? Any kind of engagement with the book—exploration of its key themes; agreement or disagreement with how it tells the story, or the lessons it draws; understanding of the questions it asks and the challenges it raises; exploration of the behaviors and motives of its characters; exploration of how the author builds and organizes his narrative; zooming-in on one part of the book to explore and analyze in more detail; analysis of particular writing elements, like rhetorical tropes, or how the author constructs sentences or paragraphs. When in doubt, ask me ahead of time and discuss your ideas as you develop them.

Bonus point opportunities:

- (1) If you peer-edit your draft at least one week before it is due, you will receive up to 5 points (this requires both you and your peer editor to submit a short statement on the experience at least five days before the essay is due—when you met, where you met, what key aspects of the draft were tackled by your peer, how you engaged after your peer read the draft, whether you debriefed afterwards (recommended) with your peer editor).
- (2) If you go to the Writing Center with something close to a full draft, at least five days before the paper is due, you will receive up to 5 points, as long as you submit to Canvas a report on how the Writing Center session went, from your perspective, at least three days before the paper due date. Please identify your Writing Center tutor in your comment. Your tutor does not need to submit anything to me.
- (3) If you submit a rough draft to me at least three days before the paper is due, you will receive up to 5 points to me, as long as you submit to Canvas, at least one day before your essay is due, a report on how my comments affected your rewriting.

Please follow the visual format of my sample essay on Henry Ford, including one-inch margins, 12-point font, page numbers, etc.

Short essay 2. Same procedure as for short essay 1.

Short essay 3. Same procedure.

Occasional reading quizzes. These will occasionally be dropped in, especially if it seems like discussion is lagging. They are not intended to be difficult, but to incentive staying up on the reading.

Student research presentation. A 15-minute or so presentation (rule of thumb: +/- 3 minutes) on a topic of your choice that pertains to class.

Final essay. An essay of at least 1800 words that draws on all the material we've studied, including student presentations, to pull out three to five enduring lessons from the class. No additional research needed.

4. REQUIRED BOOKS

- Nicholas Pileggi. *Wiseguy*. Pocket Books, reissue edition. 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1439184219.
- Herbert Asbury. *The Gangs of New York: An Informal History of the Underworld*. Paperback. Vintage. 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0307388988.
- Sudhir Venkatesh. *Gang Leader for a Day*. Penguin. 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0143114932.
- Tom Wainwright. *Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel*. PublicAffairs. 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1610395830.
- Declan Hill. *The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime*. McClelland & Stewart. 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0771041396.
- Michael Harvey. *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing*. 2nd edition. Hackett. 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1603848985. (*You should have received this over the summer from the college.*)

5. ADDITIONAL READINGS

Additional readings, as needed, will be provided by the instructor.

6. LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Students with documented learning differences should consult with me about suitable accommodations.



7. CANVAS

The course Canvas site will be used for the syllabus, readings, assignment guidelines, and grading. Its Turnitin.com function will guard against plagiarism.

8. COMPUTERS AND SMARTPHONES

Allowed in class. Stay on task.

9. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to know and follow the Washington College Honor Code. Please include and sign the following statement on all submitted work: "I pledge my word of honor that I have abided by the Washington College Honor Code while completing this assignment." For in-class assignments like quizzes, it is sufficient to write "HC" and sign it. Written work should be posted to Canvas, where it will be automatically submitted to and checked by turnitin.com.

10. SCHEDULE

		Reading/activity	Work due
Tue	8/29	Introductions, expectations, syllabus	
Thu	8/31	College writing discussion and activity: Browse Harvey, <i>Nuts and Bolts of College Writing</i> , and bring comments and questions (and your copy of the book, if you have it)	In-class writing
Tue	9/5	Pileggi, <i>Wiseguy</i> , introduction, chs. 1-5	
Wed	9/6	Library assignment due on Canvas by 11:59 pm	
Thu	9/7	Pileggi, <i>Wiseguy</i> , chs. 6-12	
Tue	9/12	Pileggi, <i>Wiseguy</i> , chs. 13-18	
Thu	9/14	Pileggi, <i>Wiseguy</i> , chs. 19-22 and epilogue	
Tue	9/19	Asbury, <i>The Gangs of New York</i> , foreword by Russell Shorto, introduction, and chs. 1-3 (xi-xx, 1-56)	
Thu	9/21	Asbury, <i>The Gangs of New York</i> , chs. 4-7 (57-134)	
Fri	9/22	Essay 1 on <i>Wiseguy</i> , due on Canvas by 11:59 pm	
Tue	9/26	Asbury, <i>The Gangs of New York</i> , chs. 8-10 (135-205)	Sarah D
Thu	9/28	Asbury, <i>The Gangs of New York</i> , chs. 11-13 (206-76)	
Tue	10/3	Asbury, <i>The Gangs of New York</i> , chs. 14-16 and appendix, "Slang of the Gangsters" (277-353)	Ethan
Thu	10/5	Venkatesh, <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , foreword, preface, and chs. 1-2 (1-65) (Colin and Vince
Tue	10/10	Venkatesh, <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , ch. 3 (67-111)	Ryan and Barry
Thu	10/12	Fall break—no class	
Tue	10/17	Venkatesh, <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , chs. 4-5 (113-83) [Start with Jakob on 109]	Sarah B
Thu	10/19	Venkatesh, <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , ch. 6 (185-218)	Ted
Tue	10/24	Venkatesh, <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , chs. 7-8, author's note, and acknowledgments (219-90)	Bradley
Thu	10/26	Writing discussion day (based on student essays)	
Tue	10/31	Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i> , introduction and chs. 1-2 (1-52)	Jakob and Charlie
Thu	11/2	Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i> , chs. 3-5 (53-132)	
Wed	11/3	Essay 2 on <i>Gangs of New York</i> or <i>Gang Leader for a Day</i> , due on Canvas by 11:59 pm	
Tue	11/7	Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i> , chs. 6-8 (133-92)	
Thu	11/9	Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i> , chs. 9-10 and conclusion (193-254)	Catherine
Tue	11/14	Hill, <i>The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime</i> , note about language, preface, introduction, and part I (ix-xviii and 1-85)	Ray
Thu	11/16	Hill, <i>The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime</i> , part II (87-190 and photographs)	Eoin
Tue	11/21	Hill, <i>The Fix: Soccer and Organized Crime</i> , part III, epilogue, and acknowledgements (191-317)	Michael
Thu	11/23	Thanksgiving Break	
Tue	11/28	Writing discussion day	
Thu	11/30	[To be arranged]	
Fri	12/1	Essay 3 on <i>Narconomics</i> or <i>The Fix</i> , due on Canvas by 11:59 pm	
Tue	12/5	Final reflections and key lessons	
Thu	12/7	Last class	
Mon	12/11	Final essay, due on Canvas by 11:59 pm	