

GANGS (CRMJ 4260)
Spring 2017
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00-9:50
BU 208

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Adrienne Freng
OFFICE: Arts and Sciences Building 225
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm
Wednesday 10:00-11:00
Or by appointment
OFFICE PHONE: 307-766-2307
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If you can not contact me in my office, on the phone, or via email, you may leave a message in my mailbox on 2nd floor of the Arts and Sciences Building in the main Criminal Justice office.

Required Text: Howell, J.C. & Griffiths, E. (2014). *Gangs in America's communities*, 2nd edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

1. **Course Description:** There are few topics that fascinate people more than gangs. In our society, we constantly hear information regarding gangs through the media, governmental policies, or through personal conversations and experience. This course will examine the issue of gangs within the broader context of the society in which we live.

This course will be organized around five main topics relating to gangs. First, the question of what is a gang will be explored. Since the definition of gangs has changed over time, the history of gangs and gang research is an emphasis in this section. The second question examined is who are gang members. Specifically, in this section, the demographics of gang members is the focus. Third, we will consider the reasons individuals join gangs, including a discussion on the theories and risk factors of gang membership. The organization and activities of gang members and gangs represents the fourth area of interest. Finally, this class will explore the question of what do we do. The focus here will be issues such as the current gang policies, are these policies working, and what future gang policy should entail. In our discussion on gangs, we will discuss the policy implications and how gangs affect our world today.

2. **Course Objectives:** The objectives of this course are:

- a. To gain a knowledge of the characteristics and nature of gangs.
- b. To critically and objectively examine current research, topics, and policy related to gangs.
- c. To develop a more accurate understanding of facts relating to gangs.
- d. To synthesize knowledge on gangs through class discussion and written assignments.

3. **Course Organization:** The course objectives will be achieved by readings, lectures, discussion, films, quizzes, written assignments, and exams.

- A. **Readings:** Readings will consist of chapters in the texts and supplemental readings.
- B. **Lectures:** Some of the topic areas will be dealt with in lecture.
- C. **Discussion:** Many topics will be covered in discussion. Since this is an upper-division seminar style-class, in-depth discussion over the assigned readings will comprise the majority of class periods. However, some lecture will be necessary to introduce ideas and concepts not covered in assigned readings. Because discussion is essential to this course, it is crucial that you read assigned materials prior to class time. In addition, it is important that you comprehend and integrate the assigned readings so that you can participate in class discussion. Thus, it is highly recommended that you take detailed notes on readings.
- D. **Films:** Some of the topics covered in class will include films.
- E. **Quizzes:** I reserve the right to implement quizzes if I feel that the class is unprepared to discuss topics for that class period. If I feel that people are coming to class prepared, quizzes will not need to be utilized. Points for these quizzes cannot be earned when a student is absent, but can be lost unless the student presents the instructor with a valid University excuse by the next class session. Students are responsible for making sure they did not miss any quizzes during their excused absence.
- F. **Article Assignment:** This assignment requires that you locate an academic journal article related to one of the topics that we will cover regarding gangs. This assignment will be due by the beginning of class on February 1st. Any papers received **after this time are considered late**. The specifics of this paper will be discussed further in class. This paper will need to be 3-5 pages long. All papers must be double-spaced, typed, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, and have one inch margins. You will need to include a title and reference page. These two pages are not included in the required number of pages. For every day your paper is late, five points will be deducted. **Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances and should be submitted via WyoCourses.**
- G. **Paper Assignment:** This assignment will be due by the beginning of class on April 26th. Any papers received **after this time are considered late**. The specifics of this paper will be discussed further in class. This paper will need to be 7-10 pages long. All papers must be double-spaced, typed, use Times New Roman, 12 point font, and have one inch margins. You will need to include a title and reference page. These two pages are not included in the required number of pages. For every day your paper is late, five points will be deducted. **Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances and should be submitted via WyoCourses.**

- H. **In-class exercises:** There will be some in-class exercises during the course of the semester. These exercises and their requirements will be discussed in class as they are assigned. Points for these in-class assignments cannot be earned when a student is absent, but can be lost unless the student presents the instructor with a valid University excuse by the next class session. Students are responsible for making sure they did not miss any in-class assignments during their excused absence.
- I. **Attendance:** Attendance is your responsibility. Although attendance will not be taken, missing class tends to be detrimental to student's grades. Regardless of the reason for missing class, all students are responsible for knowing the material covered in class, including material from class lectures, movies, discussion and all announcements made in class. I suggest becoming acquainted with someone in the class so they can provide you with notes if you miss a class.
- J. **Exams:** There will be a total of three exams. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. A scheduled exam missed due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero. In order to be permitted to make up an exam, the absence must be due to an authorized excuse. Make-up exams will be given only under the following conditions:
1. Participation in organized school activity.
 2. Death in the immediate family.
 3. Illness (with doctor's written excuse).
 4. Special circumstances that are approved to be appropriate by the instructor.

FOR EACH OF THESE EXCUSES, YOU MUST HAVE DOCUMENTATION TO MAKE UP YOUR EXAM!!!!!! Make up exams will only be given to those students who have discussed their absence with the instructor and have a legitimate excuse. Legitimate excuses do not include sleeping in, leaving early for breaks, work schedule, and other such excuses. Make-up exams will need to be scheduled with the instructor and completed within one week of the excused absence.

University Excuse: In order to be excused from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the students' absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at:

<http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>. Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician. These excuses must be for the exam date and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

K. Exam Questions Assignment: Before each exam, students are expected to submit three exam questions with answers, one each from each category: multiple choice, short answer, and essay. These questions will be graded based on the quality of question. These should be more application type questions than just simple definitional type questions. The best question from each category will be selected to be placed on the exam. These will be due by the beginning of class on February 17th, March 22nd, and May 1st. **Assignments will not be accepted via email except under approved circumstances and should be submitted via WyoCourses.**

4. **Student Responsibilities:** I expect that as students, you will come to class prepared, having read the material required for that day. This will enable us to have lively discussions in class and allow you to ask pertinent questions regarding the material. For this reason, students are also responsible for participating in class discussion. Furthermore, students are asked to be respectful of other students and the instructor. We will be discussing various issues in this class and not everyone is going to agree. Additionally, behavior that would detract from the course and not allow others to actively participate in the class will not be tolerated. Actions such as excessive, non-course related talking, the use of cell phones during class, leaving early, or leaving and returning during class detract from the course, disrupt others, and interrupt the class and thus can result in dismissal from this course. Finally, as college students, you are considered adults and I will treat you accordingly. I expect that you act accordingly. Your college experience is training for present or future job opportunities and should be treated as such. Non-passing grades are your responsibility, not the professor's. I am more than willing to assist you in any way if you are struggling in the class. However, this means coming to see me early, not the last several weeks of the course.

5. **Grading:** The total number of points available will depend on the number of in-class exercises, group work, and quizzes given during the semester. In-class exercises, group work assignments, and quizzes will add to the total number of points in the class and are **NOT** extra credit.

Points will be divided between assignments as follows:

Tests (3)	100 pts.	300 pts.
Paper (1)	100 pts.	100 pts.
Article Assignment (1)	50 pts.	50 pts.
Exam Questions (3)	10 pts.	30 pts.
TOTAL:	480 pts.	+ any in-class assignments, quizzes, or group work

Your grades will be determined by the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F

All assignments will be lowered five points each day they are late. They are considered late if not received at the beginning of class.

6. **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone found to participate in these activities will receive an F for the assignment and quite possibly the course. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University guidelines (UniReg 6-802). In addition, grade appeals will be handled according to these same guidelines. These guidelines can be found in the University Regulations.

For a listing of additional responsibilities and rights of students (and faculty) in the College of Arts and Sciences please go to

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/a&s/Current/Students&TeachersWorking%20Together.doc>

7. **WyoCourses:** As a resource for this class, a WyoCourse site is available to you. This site provides the opportunity to have all of the course materials in one place that is accessible to everyone. Assignments and announcements will be posted to this site. As part of the requirements for this class, you are expected to check and use this site regularly. **Make sure to check your UW email as this is the address that will be utilized for any posted announcements.** If you have problems accessing this site, you need to contact me by January 27th.
8. The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change (and probably will) at the discretion of the instructor. In order to stay current with announcements regarding the schedule, you will need to attend and be on time for class.
9. It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

10. Tentative Course Outline:

****Articles for topics will be added at a later date.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 23rd	Introduction	
January 25th	What is a Gang?	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 3, p. 43-59
January 27th	What is a Gang?	
January 30th	What is a Gang?	

February 1st	What is a Gang? ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT DUE	
February 3rd	What is a Gang?	
February 6th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 1
February 8th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	
February 10th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	
February 13th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	
February 15th	Trends in Gang Membership	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 7
February 17th	Who is a Gang Member? (Race/ethnicity) EXAM QUESTIONS DUE	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 3, p. 64-68
February 20th	Who is a Gang Member? (Race/ethnicity)	
February 22nd	Who is a Gang Member? (Gender)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 6
February 24th	Who is a Gang Member? (Gender)	
February 27th	Who is a Gang Member?	
March 1st	EXAM #1	
March 3rd	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 4
March 6th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	
March 8th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	

March 10th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 5
March 13-17th	Spring Break NO CLASSES	
March 20th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	
March 22nd	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership) EXAM QUESTIONS DUE	
March 24th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
March 27th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
March 29th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
March 31st	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
April 3rd	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
April 5th	EXAM #2	
April 7th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non- Delinquency and Violence)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 8
April 10th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non-Delinquency and Violence)	

April 12th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non-Delinquency and Violence)	
April 14th	Gangs, Drugs, and Guns	
April 17th	Gangs, Drugs, and Guns	
April 19th	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs)	<u>Howell</u> Ch.9
April 21st	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs)	
April 24th	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs)	
April 26th	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues) PAPER DUE	
April 28th	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues)	
May 1st	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues) EXAM QUESTIONS DUE	
May 3rd	Social Responses to Gangs (Comprehensive Programs)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 10
May 5th	Where Does This Leave Us? (Conclusion)	
May 8th	FINAL (8:00-10:00am)	