

**GANGS (CRMJ 4260)**  
**Spring 2020**  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00-10:50**  
**CR 215**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Adrienne Freng  
OFFICE: Arts and Sciences Building 225  
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm  
Wednesday 8:30-9:30  
Or by appointment  
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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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Arts and Sciences Building in the main Criminal Justice office.

Required Text: Howell, J.C. & Griffiths, E. (2019). *Gangs in America's communities*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 provide an overview of one of the article readings in the course. This assignment will be due by the beginning of class on February 12th. 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 24th. 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 approved to be appropriate by the instructor or the Dean of Students.

**Make up exams will only be given to those students who have discussed their absence with the instructor within one week of the missed exam and have an authorized excuse. Legitimate excuses do not include sleeping in, leaving early for breaks, work schedule, and other such excuses.**

**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. 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. Be advised that student health does not provide excused absences. 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 for exams.

- 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. These will be due by the beginning of class on February 21st, March 25th, 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. Spirited

debate and disagreement are to be expected in any classroom and all views will be heard fully, but at all times we will behave civilly and with respect towards one another. Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere. Additionally, behavior that would detract from the course and not allow others to actively participate in the class will not be tolerated. As the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs. Additionally, 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, so please refrain from these activities. 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. Act professionally, arrive on time, pay attention, complete your work in a timely and professional manner, and treat all deadlines seriously. 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. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an "F" on an exam, an "F" on the class component exercise, and/or an "F" in the entire course. In addition, grade appeals will be handled according to these same guidelines. These guidelines can be found in the University Regulations.

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 February 3rd.
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. The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including, but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu). It is in the student's best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)
10. The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.
11. UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member **MUST** report information you share about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, if you inform a faculty member of an issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination, as a "Responsible Employee" they are required to bring it to the attention of the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>
12. Student Resources:

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu), 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall,  
[www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

COUNSELING CENTER: [uccstaff@uwyo.edu](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu), 766-2187, 766-8989 (After hours), 341 Knight  
Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/ucc](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: 766-4286, 312 Old Main, [www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE: [dos@uwyo.edu](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu), 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/dos](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)

UW POLICE DEPARTMENT: [uwpd@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu), 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St,  
[www.uwyo.edu/uwpd](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE: [www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)

13. Tentative Course Outline:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 27th	Introduction	
January 29th	What is a Gang?	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 3, p. 43-59
January 31st	What is a Gang?	Esbensen et al.
February 3rd	What is a Gang?	Valasik and Reid
February 5th	What is a Gang?	
February 7th	What is a Gang?	
February 10th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 1
February 12th	History of Gangs and Gang Research <b>ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>	
February 14th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	Decker et al.
February 17th	History of Gangs and Gang Research	
February 19th	Trends in Gang Membership	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 7 Pyrooz and Sweeten Worrall and Morris
February 21st	Who is a Gang Member? (Race/ethnicity) <b>EXAM QUESTIONS DUE</b>	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 3, p. 64-68
February 24th	Who is a Gang Member? (Race/ethnicity)	

February 26th	Who is a Gang Member? (Gender)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 6 Pyrooz et al.
February 28th	Who is a Gang Member? (Gender)	
March 2nd	Who is a Gang Member?	
March 4th	<b>EXAM #1</b>	
March 6th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 4
March 9th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	
March 11th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	
March 13th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 5 Krohn et al.
March 16 <sup>th</sup> -20th	Spring Break <b>NO CLASSES</b>	
March 23rd	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership)	Lenzi et al.
March 25th	Why Do Gangs Form and Why Do Youth Join? (Theories and Risk Factors of Gang Membership) <b>EXAM QUESTIONS DUE</b>	

March 27th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	Pyrooz and Decker Descormiers & Corrado
March 30th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	Pyrooz et al.
April 1st	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
April 3rd	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	Weerman et al.
April 6th	Nature of Gangs/The Gang Experience (Organization and Leadership)	
April 8th	<b>EXAM #2</b>	
April 10th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non- Delinquency and Violence)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 8 Peterson et al.
April 13th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non-Delinquency and Violence)	
April 15th	Gangs, Delinquency, and Violence (Attitudes, Delinquency, Non-Delinquency and Violence)	
April 17th	Gangs, Drugs, and Guns	Lizotte and Sheppard Roberto et al.
April 20th	Gangs, Drugs, and Guns	Bjeeregaard
April 22nd	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs)	<u>Howell</u> Ch.9 Howell reading Esbensen et al.
April 24th	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs) <b>PAPER DUE</b>	

April 27th	Social Responses to Gangs (Prevention Programs)	
April 29th	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues)	
May 1st	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues) <b>EXAM QUESTIONS DUE</b>	
May 4th	Social Responses to Gangs (Police and Legal Issues)	
May 6th	Social Responses to Gangs (Comprehensive Programs)	<u>Howell</u> Ch. 10
May 8th	Where Does This Leave Us? (Conclusion)	
May 13th	<b>FINAL (10:15am-12:15pm)</b>	