Domestic & International Security Threat Groups (CJSA 1372)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Chris Spears

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Office Phone: (409)880-8023

Office Location: By Appointment

Office Hours: Office Hours

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self Evaluation
https://www.lit.edu/online-learning/online-orientation/is-distance-learning-right-for-me

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of the growth of gangs in the prison systems in the United States. Includes the reasons for the gangs and their activities, methods of identifying gang members, and methods of reducing gang membership and violence. A study of current philosophies, weapons, tactics, funding sources, computer uses, Communications, Internet use, and other technologies used to operate covertly by domestic security threat groups. Analysis of international security threat groups as well as its origins, problems defining gangs, and the challenges gangs pose to United States policy makers and law enforcement agencies. This course is time-bound, structured, and will have both in-person and online requirements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Classify the different gangs in the prison systems in the United States and Texas
2. Identify the characteristics of prison gangs
3. List methods of reducing gang membership and violence.
4. Name domestic security threat groups
5. Present a report profiling one or more security threat groups
6. List three courses of action domestic security threat groups may take to achieve their goals.
7. Document different international groups and evaluate their impact on United States policy makers and law enforcement agencies

8. Identify objectives and tactics of key international gangs
9. Discuss countermeasures available to U.S. agencies fighting security threat groups.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Street Gangs Throughout the World, 2nd ed., Herbert C. Covey, ISBN 978-0-398-07906-2, Charles C Thomas Publishing

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week and attend the prescheduled in-person class dates. These will be announced after the start of class.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
1/17/23	Introduction Assignments	Introductions and Netiquette Orientation Test	Discussion 1
1/23/23	Prison Gangs	Chapter 1	Discussion 2
1/30/23			Discussion 3
2/6/23	International Gang Literature	Chapter 2	Discussion 4
2/13/23			Discussion 5
2/20/23	Gangs in the United States and Canada	Chapter 3	Discussion 6
2/27/23			Test 1
3/6/23	Gangs in Europe and Russia	Chapter 4	Discussion 7
3/13/23			Discussion 8
3/20/23	Gangs in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean	Chapter 5	Discussion 9
3/27/23			Discussion 10
4/3/23	Gangs in Africa and the Middle East	Chapter 6	Discussion 11
4/10/23			Test 2
4/17/23	Gangs in Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Regions	Chapter 7	Discussion 12
4/24/23			Final Discussion

5/1/23	Review Perspectives on Street Gangs		Final Exam

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests 30%
- Assignments 30%
- Discussions 40%

GRADING SCALE

90-100   A
80-89   B
70-79   C
60-69   D
0-59   F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT
It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

STARFISH
LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION
1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an "F" grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.