

SS4302: ORGANIZED CRIME

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Organized Crime

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4302

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a fundamental understanding of organized crime. It explains the ideology, organization, structure, internal control, and the legitimate and illegal activities of organized crime syndicates. It also

explores crimes such as money laundering, transnational organized crime, white collar crime, and organized criminal gangs. It explains the underlying theories and examines how legal and criminal justice systems respond to these crimes. Furthermore, it discusses how organized crime poses challenges to existing laws and criminal procedures and explores various issues relating to combating organized crime.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the nature and classifications of organized crime;	25	x	x	
2	Apply sociological and criminological theories to explain organized crime;	25	x	x	x
3	Evaluate the effectiveness of existing crime-fighting measures against organized crime	25		x	x
4	Develop effective and innovative crime fighting and regulatory strategies in a rapidly changing social and political context	25		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Lecture	Students will engage in formal lectures on related topics presented by the lecturer to gain knowledge. Occasionally, students will be provided with specific reading materials and are expected to read and acquire knowledge from these materials before each lecture. Additionally, students will participate in 45-minute guest lectures delivered by two to three professionals who are experts in their respective fields.	1, 2, 3, 4

2	LTA2: Class discussion	Students will engage in class discussion and class activities during each lecture, with approximately 45 minutes to one hour allocated to expand and deepen their knowledge. They will engage in discussion that involve both posing and responding to questions.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	AT1: Class Assessments Students are expected to attend lectures and actively engage in in-class activities and discussions by asking questions, offering answers, and contributing to group learning. They must also complete and submit individual worksheets, which will be used to assess their participation and understanding of the course material.	1, 2, 3, 4	25	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes
2	AT2: Quiz Students will take a quiz during the sixth or seventh lecture. This quiz will assess their understanding of the theories, knowledge, and material covered so far, as well as their ability to apply what they have learned effectively.	1, 2, 3, 4	35	This is a closed-book quiz in which students are not permitted to use computers or mobile devices during the exam.	No

3	AT3: Group Research Paper Students will work in groups to produce a research paper of approximately 2,000 words (excluding references) on a selected theme related to the course. The paper should draw on information from a range of credible sources and demonstrate the group's ability to analyze and synthesize the material. It must include a clear description of the issue, application of relevant theories, critical analysis, and practical recommendations.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes
4	AT4: Group Research Presentation Each group will present their research project, with all members participating. Presentations will be held during Lectures 11 and 12, with each group allocated up to 12 minutes (timing to be confirmed). Peers will assess the presentations of other groups to support learning and reflection.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Allow AI to (1) conduct proof reading; (2) generate initial ideas; (3) conduct preliminary analyses.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

AT1: Class Assessments

Criterion

Student' s consistency in attendance, active engagement in class discussions and activities, and the timely completion and quality of individual worksheets demonstrating understanding of course content.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Unsatisfactory

Assessment Task

AT2: Quiz

Criterion

Accuracy of responses, demonstration of understanding of key theories and concepts, and the ability to apply learned material to relevant scenarios or questions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Unsatisfactory

Assessment Task

AT3: Group Research Paper

Criterion

Clarity and relevance of the issue presented, the effective application of appropriate theories, the depth of critical analysis, and the quality of synthesis from credible academic sources. The paper will also be evaluated on the quality of academic writing, including structure, coherence, proper referencing, and adherence to academic conventions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Unsatisfactory

Assessment Task

AT4: Group Research Presentation

Criterion

Quality and organization of content, application of relevant theories, participation by all group members, presentation skills, and the clarity and professionalism of visual aids. Peer feedback will support learning and reflection.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Unsatisfactory

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Organized crime

Triad society

Criminal gangs

Youth gangs

Transnational organized crime

Unlawful societies ordinance

White collar crime

Organized and serious crime ordinance

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lyman, M.D. & Potter, G.W. (2015). <i>Organised Crime</i> . Boston: Pearson.
2	Lombardo, R. (2019). <i>Organised crime: Causes and consequences</i> . Nova Science publishers.
3	Rorie, M., Wellford, C. (2019). <i>The handbook of white collar crime</i> . Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons
4	Wright, A. (2013). <i>Organised crime: Concepts, cases, controls</i> . New York. Willan Publishing

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Broadhurst, R., & Lee, K. W. (2009). The Transformation of Triad ‘Dark Societies’ in Hong Kong: The Impact of Law Enforcement, Socio-Economic and Political Change. <i>Security Challenges</i> , 5(4), 1-38.
2	Chin, K. (1990). <i>Chinese Subculture and Criminality: Non-traditional Crime Group in America</i> . Westport: Greenwood Press.
3	Chin, K. (2003). <i>Heijin: Organized Crime, Business, and Politics in Taiwan</i> . NY: M.E. Sharpe.
4	Chu, Y. K. (2005). Hong Kong Triads After 1997. <i>Trends in Organized Crime</i> , 8(3), 5-12.
5	Cressey, D. (1969). <i>Theft of a Nation: The Structure and Operations of Organized Crime in America</i> . New York: Harper and Row.
6	Curtis, E. G., Elan, S. L., Hudson, R. A., & Kollars, N. A. (2002). Transnational Activities of Chinese Crime Organizations. <i>Trends in Organized Crime</i> , 7, 19-59.
7	Finckenauer, J. O. (2005). Problem of Definition: What is Organized Crime? <i>Trends in Organized Crime</i> , 8(3), 63-68.
8	Finckenauer, J. O., & Chin, K. (2004). <i>Asian Transnational Organized Crime & Its Impact of the United States: Developing A Transnational Crime Research Agenda: A Final Report</i> . Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice.
9	Finklea, K. (2010). <i>Organized Crime in the United States: Trend and Issues for Congress</i> . Washington, D. C.: Congressional Research Service.
10	Gambetta, D. (1996). <i>The Sicilian Mafia: The Business of Private Protection</i> . New Work: Harvard University Press.
11	Gonzales, A., Schofield, R., & Hagy, D (2007). <i>Asian Transnational Organized Crime & Its Impact in the United States</i> . Washington D. C.: National Institute of Justice.
12	Huque, A. S. (1994). Renunciation, De-Stigmatization & Prevention of Crime in Hong Kong. <i>The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice</i> , 33(4), 338-351.
13	Levi, M. (2007). <i>Organized Crime and Terrorism</i> . In Maguire, M., Morgan, R., & Reiner, R. (Eds.), <i>Oxford Handbook of Criminology</i> (4th ed.). London: Oxford University Press.
14	Lintner, B. (2004). Chinese Organized Crime. <i>Global Crime</i> , 6(1), 84-96.
15	Liu, B. (2001). <i>The Hong Kong Triad Societies: Before and After the 1997 Change-Over</i> . Hong Kong: Net e-Publishing.
16	Lo, S. (2009). <i>The Politics of Cross Border Crime in Greater China: Case Studies of Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao</i> . Armonk: NY: M. E. Sharpe.
17	Lo, T. W., & Kwok S. I. (2012). Traditional Crime in the Modern World: How Triad Societies Respond to Socioeconomic Change. In Siegel, D., Staring, R., & Bunt, H (Eds.), <i>Faces of the Mafia</i> . Amsterdam: Springer.
18	Maltz, M. (1976). On Defining Organized Crime: The Development of a Definition and Typology. <i>Crime and Delinquency</i> , 22(3), 338-346.
19	Mcillian, J. C. (1999). Organized Crime: A Social Network Approach. <i>Crime, Law & Social Change</i> , 32, 301-323.
20	Morselli, C. (2009). <i>Inside Criminal Networks</i> . New York: Springer.
21	Paoli, L. (2001). Criminal Fraternities or Criminal Enterprise? In Williams, P. and Vlassis, D. (Eds.), <i>Combating Transnational Crime: Concepts, Activities and Responses</i> . London: Frank Cass.
22	Paoli, L. (2002). The Paradoxes of Organized Crime. <i>Crime, Law & Social Change</i> , 37(1), 51-97.

23	Paoli, L. (2004). Italian Organized Crime: Mafia Association and Criminal Enterprise. <i>Global Crime</i> , 6(1), 19-31.
24	Varese, F. (2006). How Mafia' s Migrate: The Case of the Ndrangheta in Northern Italy. <i>Law and Society</i> , 40(2), 411-44.
25	Xia, M. (2008). Organizational Formations of Organized Crime in China: Perspectives from the State, Markets, and Networks. <i>Journal of Contemporary China</i> , 17(54): 1-23.
26	Zhang, S. (2008). <i>Chinese Human Smuggling Organizations: Families, Social Networks, and Cultural Imperatives</i> . Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
27	Zhang, S., & Chin, K. (2002). Enter the Dragon: Inside Chinese Human Smuggling Organizations. <i>Criminology</i> , 40, 737-68.
28	Zhang, S., & Chin, K. (2003). The Declining Significance of Triad Societies in Transnational Illegal Activities: A Structural Deficiency Perspective. <i>British Journal of Criminology</i> , 43, 469-88.
29	Zhang, S. X., & Chin, K. (2008). Snakeheads, Mules, and Protective Umbrellas: A Review of Current Research on Chinese Organized Crime, <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> , 50, 177-95.
30	Zhao, G., & Li, Z. (2010). An Analysis of Current Organized Crime in Hong Kong. <i>Journal of Chinese Criminal Law</i> , 4, 96-109. (In Chinese)
31	Chu, Y. K. (2000). <i>The Triads as Business</i> . London: Routledge.