GAVILAN COLLEGE
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

Course Outline

COURSE: AJ 176 DIVISION: 50 ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2024 CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 06/11/2024

SHORT TITLE: CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

LONG TITLE: Criminal Street Gangs

Units	Number of Weeks	Type	Contact Hours/Week	Total Contact Hours/Units
3	18	Lecture:	3	54 / 3 Units of Lecture
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs:	108.00
Total Learning Hrs:	162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to explore historical developments, origins, philosophy and current trends and activities in criminal street gangs within California. It will explore areas of violence, recruitment, drug use, graffiti and attire; with emphasis placed on organization within gangs and their racial backgrounds. Types of solutions within the criminal justice system used to combat street gangs is also included.

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion
05 - Hybrid
71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Examine the history, the various reasons for the creation of criminal street gangs, and the reasons for criminal activity.
2. Identify various different types of gangs in the U.S., with emphasis on active street gangs in California.
3. Examine and identify how the criminal justice system controls and deals with criminal street gangs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Define the term gang.
2. Analyze the influences of gangs.
3. Discuss the history of American Street Gangs.
4. Identify the membership profiles (demographics) of gangs, including the risk factors and characteristics.

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date: 06/11/2024

6 Hours

CONTENT: Introduction. American Street Gangs will cover a brief overview of early American street gangs from the 1800's through today. Specifically, Irish and Italian gangs/mafias up to the current various types of racial division of gangs. Gang (Youth) Violence in America. This area will cover youth crimes, media influence, family dynamics, school violence, juvenile crime, custodial time, substance abuse and risk factors. Gang Lifestyle and Membership Profiles. This area will cover age, violence, structures, myths and victimization, gang mentality, code of silence, respect, insults, survival, responsibility for actions, distorted sense of reality, and initiations.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Quiz. Gang Sociology. This area will cover delinquent gangs, violent gangs, turf gangs, crime for profit gangs, philosophical and semi-traditional gangs, membership and law enforcement perspectives.

3 Hours

CONTENT: Gang Growth Migration and Studies. This area will cover why gangs grow and/or move, gang life and influences which affect these actions. The probation/parole perspective will also be presented.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Quiz. Gang Behaviors and Gang Mentality. This will include behavior dynamics, transient gang behavior, and intra-gang behavior. The factors that influence a gangs mentality; such as payback, code of silence, respect, and

violence will be presented.

3 Hours

CONTENT: Membership Indicia. This area will cover the ways gang choose to identify themselves; such as graffiti, clothing, tattoos, piercings, and hair cuts.

3 Hours

CONTENT: West Coast Latino Gangs. This area will cover the history, current trends and characteristics of West Coast Latino Gangs.

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

4 Hours

CONTENT: Sureno-Norteno Gangs. 18th Street. Mara Salvatrucha. Southern California Hispanic Gangs and Northern California Hispanic Gangs. This area will cover the historical points and division of current Southern California Hispanic street gangs and the historical points and divisions of current Northern California Hispanic street gangs. It will also cover trends in the media, music production, dress styles, tattoos, graffiti, art work, issues with the courts, probation and parole and threats to local and Federal law enforcement agencies. Presentation of gang paraphernalia confiscated by local law enforcement and probation personnel. The First Mexican American Street Gangs. Focus in this area will be on 18th Street gangs from Los Angeles, the El Paso, TX influence, Sleepy Lagoon Murder, Zoot Suit Riots, Shoe Wars, generations of gangs, clothing, tattoos, hairstyles, graffiti, hand signs, slangs and recruitments. Other South American gangs will include coverage of Salvadorian street gangs in California. A documentary video could be shown to supplement the lecture material.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Midterm. African American Gangs. This area will cover the history of African American gangs, discussions with the two (Blood, Crips) main African American street gangs originating in California, their profiles, graffiti, handsigns, area codes, clothing, mentality, drug sales, slangs and tattoos. Asian Gangs. This area will cover an overview of various Asians gangs including Korean, Filipino, Samoan, Japanese and Southeast Asian gangs. Other areas of discussion include home invasions, burning, tattoos, non-violent crimes and current trends within these groups.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Skinhead Gangs. This area will cover history, philosophies, classification, profiles, clothing, graffiti, mentality, violence, handsigns, tattoos, art work, music, attitude, substance abuse and trends. A documentary video could be shown to supplement the lecture.

3 Hours

CONTENT: American Militias. National Alliance. This area will cover the history and membership of American Militias, as well as several significant historical events that shape this group. An overview of the National Alliance including its leadership, recruitment, locations, and current status will be provided.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Quiz. Female Gangs. This area will cover history, myths, gangs types, associate gangs, motherhood, current trends as well as correlation to male gangs, domestic violence, sexual abuse and substance abuse. Prison Gangs and Street Gang Correlations. This area will cover the historical points and the creation of prison gangs. Other topics discussed in this area include narcotics trafficking and racial discrimination. This area will focus on the current and direct influences that prison gangs have on local street gangs and violence. Video segments on riots in California prisons may also be shown.

3 Hours

CONTENT: Gangs and Schools. This area will cover culture, language, school safety, dress codes, gang attire, issues involving search and seizure, issues and concerns involving school resource officers and juvenile probation.

3 Hours

CONTENT: Substance Abuse and Gangs. This area will cover drug definitions, classifications, ingestion, physical effects, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, phencyclidine, inhalants, cannibis, designer drugs, warning signs, gang/drug connections, drug slangs, drug cartels and gang connections. Short video segments may be utilized.

4 Hours

CONTENT: Gangs and Families. This area will cover family dynamics, denial, economic and neighborhood influences, generations of gangs in families, domestic violence, sexual assaults and statistics. Gangs and Corrections. This area will cover gang classification and validation, juvenile and adult institutions, intelligence collecting, correlation and influence with street gangs, threats to law enforcement, interviewing techniques, using probation and parole as a tool for law enforcement. Review for final. Present oral reports on papers if time allows.

2 Hours

Final Exam.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lectures, class discussions, videos, presentations.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Outside Hours 54

Assignment Description

OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Read textbook chapters. Review notes and study for quizzes/midterm/final.

Required Outside Hours 54

Assignment Description

OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Homework: Identify gang activity and analyze an actual case in the media. Students may also participate in a tour of a local juvenile detention facility. Work on research paper and oral report of paper if required. Homework: Write a short essay analyzing a gang related story or event covered in the media, based on class discussions and textbook readings.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 25

Evaluation Description

Written homework,

Term papers.

The problem-solving assignments required:

Quizzes,

Exams

Problem-solving assignments

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

Quizzes,

Exams

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 65

Evaluation Description

Multiple Choice,

True/False

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Understanding Gangs and Gang Violence in America, Gabe Morales, Cognella, 2021.

ISBN:

12 Grade Verified by: Verified by using Word

Recommended Other Texts and Materials

Gangs: A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs: By Al Valdez: Law Tech Publishing Ltd.

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Not Transferable

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N
Classification: Y
Noncredit Category: Y
Cooperative Education:
Program Status: 1 Program Applicable
Special Class Status: N
Prior to College Level: Y
Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N
Funding Agency Code: Y
In-Service: N
Occupational Course: C
Course Control Number: CCC000003129
Sports/Physical Education Course: N
Taxonomy of Program: 210500
CIP: