PRISON GANGS / SOC SCI 164C
Summer Session II (2011)

Instructor: Al Valdez, PhD.
E-mail address: ajvaldez@uci.edu
Office Hours: Phone consults by request

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

When emailing your instructor please include in the subject heading “OL P-Gangs.” Provide your name and telephone number to ensure a timely response. Sometimes I will call you to explain my answer.

There will be a number of different types of discussion sessions including a webinar. So please limit your emails to me for personal issues/emergencies only.

SPECIAL GUEST LECTURER: RENE ENRÍQUEZ

Mr. Enríquez is a former high-ranking Mexican Mafia prison gang member who is still in custody. He has prepared special lectures that will explore the operation and structure of the Mexican Mafia prison gang in California, the nation and why this prison gang can be considered a transnational gang. During this session he will be available via e-mail for class discussions and questions. He will offer a unique perspective on prison gang relationships from a practitioner’s point of view.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce the student to a basic understanding of prison gangs, the relationship between prison and street gangs, the impact of technology, and the globalization of some prison gangs. This course will cover the impact of illegal drug and money laundering transnational prison gang criminal activity. Additional content areas include the use of and effect of violence by prison gangs and why prison gangs tend to have such a strong influence on street gang membership.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, student shall be able to demonstrate core skills/knowledge covering the following areas:

- Historical perspectives of prison gangs
- Understand the concept(s) of why prison gangs form
- Be able to identify major prison gangs
- Understand the relationship between street and prison gangs
- Understand the leadership and organizational structures of prison gangs
- Have a working knowledge of the relationship between U.S.-based prison gangs and Mexican drug-trafficking organizations
- Understand the relationship between U.S.-based street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gangs
• Understand how violence is used by prison gangs and how violence is used to facilitate criminal operations

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:

**Forum Postings**: Students are required to post two responses to the forums for each week. These posts entail at least one response to the discussion question and one response to another student’s reply.

Students should check the discussion forums each Monday to see the discussion topics. Students are expected to write a *minimum* of two postings per week (as defined above). Your first post is due by Wednesday 6 PM; your second post in response to another student is due on Friday. Adhering to this schedule is important because the class TAs will review the forums before the next week starts.

Posts will require your thinking/analytical skills to successfully answer the questions; you are required to provide answers that represent upper-division-level work. Additionally, I will be looking for spirited and thoughtful comments.

**Helpful Hints for Forum Posts**

Students should respond to the topic for discussion presented by the instructor for each assigned reading chapter or lecture. I again urge you to complete the second posting as this assists me in addressing issues online with the class. Your postings should reflect well-thought-out and intelligent points of discussion. The instructor reserves the right to decide if the student’s effort and insight will receive full credit. Please feel free to take a personal stand and express your convictions on the topics presented (within professional reason and academically appropriate boundaries). IMPORTANTLY, make sure that your ideas relate to the subject at hand, as well as the information provided by the notes, lectures and text.

**Important Note**: It is important to note that ALL due dates (for exams, postings, quizzes, etc.) are based on Pacific Daylight time (PDT). Students are expected to calculate the official due dates and times if they are in a different time zone. Please make sure that when adjusting your personal and work schedule that you consider the due dates and times in PDT. For purposes of course security, exams will not be released at different times to accommodate a time zone difference.

All students MUST take the exams at the stated date and time. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS.**
Please review and **PRINT** the course syllabus to ensure that you can meet the requirements of this course. By beginning this course, it is assumed that you will be able to alter your schedule to meet these set requirements and that you have the required text(s). This syllabus is subject to change.

**Final Examination:** The final examination is scheduled to be released on the class web site on **Friday, September 3 at 5:00 pm PDT**; students will be required to complete the exam by **8pm PDT that same evening**. The exam is open book and will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. These questions will cover all of the material (readings, lectures and postings, etc.) presented in the course. All students are REQUIRED TO TAKE THE EXAM ON THIS DATE. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS.

**Late Assignments:** While this is an online course, students are expected to complete assignments in a timely fashion. Late postings will receive a 1-point reduction per 24-hour period for each assigned question. If there are specific difficulties, students are encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course to make accommodations. There are no make-ups for missed/late postings, quizzes, or examinations. Students are expected to alter their schedules to meet the requirements of this course.

**Important Note:** Since this is an online course, students can not physically “hand in” assignments/exams. Instead, students are required to post their work on the class website in the specified area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS &amp; READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 1 - 6</td>
<td><em>Introduction to Street Gangs and Corrections</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Readings: Valdez, pages 1-92</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aug. 7 - 13</td>
<td><em>The Mexican Mafia and Sureños</em></td>
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<td>Readings: Valdez and Enríquez, pages 24 - 69</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Aug. 14-20</td>
<td><em>Prison Gang Relationships</em></td>
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<td>Readings: Valdez, pages 376 - 385</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Aug. 21-27</td>
<td><em>Gang Globalization and Illegal Markets</em></td>
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<td>Readings: Valdez, pages 403 - 434</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Aug. 28 – Sept. 3</td>
<td><em>Texas-Based Prison Gangs</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Readings: Valdez, pages 376 - 385</td>
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**Grading:**
Grades in this course will be based on the following point structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Forum Posts</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<td><strong>Total possible class points:</strong></td>
<td>200</td>
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**Grading Scale:**
A= 180-200  
B= 160-179  
C= 140-159  
D= 120-139  
F= < 119

**Citation of Sources:** The University of California seeks to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity. Any work submitted by a student must represent original work produced by that student. Any source used by a student must be documented through normal scholarly references and citations, and the extent to which any sources have been used must be apparent to the reader. The University further considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsibility to seek clarification from the course instructor about how much help may be received in completing an assignment or exam or project and what sources may be used. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the University. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, visit this web site:  
http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html.

**Accommodations:** It is the policy of the University of California to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Disability Services Center on campus. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Disability Services Center when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student’s responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect the student privacy, the Disability Services Center will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.
Please sign and upload this page to the proper forum on the class web site before August 6.

I have read and understand the information contained in this syllabus.

Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________
E Mail ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

(OL P-Gangs UCI)