

PSCI 3143: Problems in International Relations

Instructor: Elise Pizzi
Office hours (Ketchum 5C):
MW 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

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Dates to remember:

First exam: Friday September 16th
Second exam: Monday October 10th
Final exam: Exam week
Backgrounder: Friday November 11
Final paper: Friday December 9

Course description:

Political science scholarship has paid relatively little attention to illicit economic activity, despite the enormous impact the international market for illicit goods and services has on states and societies. The illicit trade of goods and services affects regulators as well as licit economic activities. This course will look at the illicit economy as part of the wider economy and explore the interaction among legal and illegal actors and states.

This course will apply ideas developed in international political economy to the illicit economy. Students will explore how the illicit economy works and the relationship between the state and the illicit economy. In addition, students will learn the basic characteristics and mechanics of several specific illegal organizations and types of illicit activity.

Assessment:

The main requirements for the course are three exams, one presentation, one paper, and regular attendance and participation. Each component of the course requirements is described in greater detail below:

Two exams (15% each): 30%

- The first exam will take place on September 16th in class. This exam will cover the main theories and explanations of the illicit economy and international political economy.
- The second exam will cover the specific cases and issue areas we cover in weeks 5-7.
- Makeup exams must be completed within one week of the exam, and only with a doctor's note excusing missed exams.

Presentation: 25%

- After the first exam, we will spend 11 weeks examining specific organizations and industries within the illicit economy. On most Wednesdays and Fridays, a panel of 2-3 student experts will present case studies and lead discussion on the topic of the week. The presenters will do additional reading on the case, deliver a brief presentation on the case (10 minutes per person), and facilitate discussion following the presentations. You are not responsible for the entire class period. The presentations are meant to provide background information and perspectives on the issue at hand and to provoke discussion.

- Every student will present once during the course of the semester. I will assign presentation dates during the first 3 weeks of class. Be creative in your presentation and get the class involved. I *strongly* encourage you to discuss your presentation with me and with your co-presenters before your presentation date. I have provided discussion questions to help structure and focus the presentations. Grades will be individually assigned, but if there is significant overlap in presentation material, all parties will receive lower grades.
- The components of the presentation include (1) a research grade (50%) and (2) a presentation grade (50%).
 - (1) The research grade will be based on an **annotated bibliography**, due at the beginning of class on the presentation date. An annotated bibliography is a list of references with a short description of the source and content.
 - (2) The presentation grade is based on **delivery and preparation**. Ensure that presentations do not overlap, that there is sufficient material and research to provide and interesting and engaging presentation, and be ready to answer questions from the class.
- *Missed Presentations*: If you miss your presentation date due to illness, emergency, etc, you can make up the presentation with an 8-10 page paper (single spaced) on the discussion question you would have covered in the presentation. This paper will be due the Monday following your presentation date, and is only an option if I have notice that you will miss your presentation *in advance*.

Final paper: 25%

- There is one major writing assignment for this course. You will complete an 8-10 page assessment of either an organization or type of illicit economic activity. You should evaluate the current status of the organization or activity, determine the risks and rewards the participants face, explain the role of the state, and explain what you see as the likely future for this illicit activity or organization. I expect you to use theory and materials from class and to conduct outside research in order to make a coherent and original argument. We will discuss the paper in more detail following the first exam. There are two components:
- **Backgrounder** (10%) due Friday November 11 at the start of class. This is a short (4-6 page) proposal briefly introducing the question you will ask and how you intend to answer this question. The topic must be international, illegal, and economic. This section should include:
 - o What is the question you are trying to answer? The question should be something that has multiple possible answers, preferably non-obvious answers.
 - o How are you planning to answer it? What cases and theories will you rely on? This is where you tell me which of the possible answers you think is appropriate and how you are going to make and *argument* that your answer is the right one.
 - o Where are you going to find your sources? What material have you already found and what is still missing? Tell me your plan for finishing the paper. What questions do you still have? What advice do you need from me?
- Include a Works Cited page or annotated bibliography. I will provide feedback on the initial research and direction the paper takes, which should be incorporated into the final paper.

- **Final paper** (15%) due Friday December 9 at the start of class. This is the final version of the paper, due on the last day of classes. I expect final papers to be clear and coherent, well-written, error-free, properly cited, and polished. Submit the papers to turnitin.com. The criteria for evaluating the final paper include:
 - o Is the topic appropriate (international, economic, illegal)?
 - o Is there a clear question? Is the question appropriate for making an argument? Are there multiple possible answers?
 - o Is there an argument? Do you appropriately show me why your answer is write and the other possible answers are wrong? Is the argument clear, consistent, and logical?
 - o Is the research and information presented appropriate? Is there sufficient research to evaluate the argument? Does the research support the answer?
 - o Is the paper polished? I expect no grammatical errors. Cite all sources appropriately.

Late assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized 15% at the end of class, and another 10% for every 24-hours thereafter. Assignments may be turned in early.

Illicit activity map: 15%

This activity will be conducted in class during the last week of the semester. It is designed to provide a review and synthesis of the course overall and serve in lieu of a comprehensive final exam. If you would rather take a final exam, please contact me. The final map or outline is due at the time of the scheduled final in hard copy and electronically. This can be completed individually or in pairs.

Participation and attendance: 5%

I expect you to attend class regular and participate. I expect that everyone will share opinions and ask questions regularly, especially during student presentations.

*Note that this syllabus and assignments are subject to change and revision. Should either of these occur, the instructor will email you with any updates as soon as possible.

Grade disputes: Students who wish to appeal a grade must submit a ½ page written explanation for why the grade received should be revisited. This written explanation must be received by the instructor within one calendar week of the exam/paper/quiz being returned to the class. The instructor will respond to any grade appeals in writing as well. After this period, all grades are considered final and will not be open to further consideration. Note that grades can be adjusted up or down as a result of this process.

Readings:

The required textbook for this course is:

Naim, M. 2006. *Illicit: How smugglers, traffickers and copycats are hijacking the global economy*. Anchor. [MN]

It is available at the CU Bookstore and online retailers.

Other assigned readings will be posted on CULearn and/or are available online. I expect you to have read and understood the assigned readings *before* coming to class. Exams will include information from assigned readings, even if they are not explicitly discussed in class.

Readings and assignments are subject to change. I will email the class and update the online syllabus with any changes made during the semester.

Communication:

I will communicate with you outside of class primarily through email. Please make sure to check your Colorado.edu email regularly as I will send reminders and recitation assignments over email. You will be responsible for the information sent out over email.

If you have any questions, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK!!! If you encounter difficulties with the course material or have any personal issues that may impact your studies, please come to me sooner rather than later so that I can do whatever is possible to help.

University Policies:

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to know and adhere to the Honor Code and academic integrity policies of the University of Colorado. Any kind of violation including cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. All work submitted in this course should be original and not submitted to other courses. Term papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. If you have any doubt about whether to cite a source, always give credit! Wikipedia and other web-based sources are no exception. Suspected incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council. More information on the Honor Code and policy of academic integrity can be found at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Papers and assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.com

Disabilities Accommodation:

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students requesting instructional accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodations with me and Professor Chan during the first two weeks of the semester. If you qualify for accommodation because of a disability, please submit a letter from the Disability Services so that we may address your needs. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Religious Observation:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please speak to Professor Chan about such accommodations during the first two weeks of the semester. If you will miss

recitation or turn in assignments late, please also let me know that your absence is excused. Details of the university's policy are at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Sexual Harassment:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment can be found at (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>). The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Course schedule:

Week 1 (August 22-August 26):

- Monday: Intro
- Wednesday: Globalization

“While I Was Sleeping”, pages 1-16 in Friedman, T. (2007). The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

- Friday: Sovereignty & the state

Love, Maryann Cusimano, “Beyond Sovereignty: The Rise of Transsovereign Problems.” *Beyond Sovereignty* pp1-10 & 35-37 (ch 1 selections)

Week 2 (August 29-September 2):

- Monday: Defining the illicit economy

Shelly et al. “Global Crime Inc.” in *Beyond Sovereignty* pp143-166

Moises Naim. “The Five Wars of Globalization.” *Foreign Policy*. (Jan/Feb 2003) 134: 29-37

- Wednesday: Defining the illicit economy (cont.)
- Friday: **No class**

Week 3 (September 5-September 9):

- Monday: Labor Day: **No class**
- Wednesday: Foundations of trade

Irwin, D. (2005). “Trade and Globalization” in M. Weinstein (Ed.) *Globalization: What’s New?* New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

- Friday: Explaining illicit enterprise

MN ch 1 & 2 “The Wars we are Losing” and “Global Smugglers are Changing Your World”

Week 4 (September 12-September 16):

- Monday: Fighting OC

MN ch 11 “Why We Are Losing”

- Wednesday: Review

- Friday: **Exam 1**

Week 5 (September 19-September 23):

- Monday: The drug business

MN ch 4 “No Business Like Drug Business”

- Wednesday: Mexico

“The New Cocaine Cowboys: How to Defeat Mexico’s Drug Cartels” *Foreign Affairs* July-Aug 2010

“The Real War in Mexico: How Democracy Can Defeat the Drug Cartels.” *Foreign Affairs*. July-Aug 2009

- Friday: Discussion

Is violence in Mexico inevitable? What is the relationship between war and organized crime?

Week 6 (September 26-September 30):

- Monday: Video: *Killing Pablo*

Sweig, Julia. 2002. “What Kind of War for Colombia?” *Foreign Affairs*.

Pardo, Rafael. 2000. “Colombia’s two-front war.” *Foreign Affairs*.

- Wednesday: Video: *Killing Pablo*
- Friday: Discussion

What are the positive & negative outcomes of the strategy of targeting cartel leaders? Is this the best strategy for the US to pursue?

Week 7 (October 3-October 7):

- Monday: US policy in Afghanistan: Source Control

US General Accountability Office, “Afghanistan Drug Control,” Report to Congressional Committees, November 2006. [p1-12]

Vanda Felbab-Brown, The Obama Administration’s New Counternarcotics Strategy in Afghanistan, *Brookings Policy Brief*, September 2009

Recommended: McMafia ch 10

- Wednesday: Discussion

Is US anti-narcotics policy helping or hurting the Taliban?

- Friday: Discussion

What is the role of the state in organized crime? What role do failed and strong states have?

Week 8 (October 10-October 14):

- Monday: **Exam 2**
- Wednesday: Russian OC

McMafia ch 2 “Bloody Lucre” p21-45

- Friday: Discussion

Did the fall of the USSR make a rise in OC inevitable? Why?

Week 9 (October 17-October 21):

- Monday: Arms Trade

MN ch 3 “Small Arms and Loose Nukes”

“Flying anything to anybody: The rise and fall of Viktor Bout, arms-dealer extraordinaire, shows a darker side of globalization.” *The Economist*. 18 Dec 2008.

- Wednesday: Discussion

Who is Viktor Bout? How, when, & where did he operate? Why was he so successful?

- Friday: Discussion

Whose responsibility is Viktor Bout? Whose responsibility is A.Q. Khan? Why was Viktor Bout able to operate so successfully for so long but is now in custody? Why A.Q. Khan still at large?

Week 10 (October 24-October 28):

- Monday: International Migration

Borjas, G. (2005). “Globalization and Immigration” in M. Weinstein (Ed.) *Globalization: What’s New?* New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Pp77-86 only

Kapstein, Ethan. “The New Global Slave Trade.” *Foreign Affairs*. Nov-Dec 2006

MN ch 5. “Why Is Slavery Booming in the 21st Century”

- Wednesday: Discussion

How can trafficking be distinguished from smuggling? Does the distinction matter for prevention?

- Friday: Discussion

Why is human trafficking and smuggling booming? What can be done to target criminals and

help victims?

Week 11 (October 31-November 4):

- Monday: Regulations and gray areas

MN. Ch 8 “What do Orangutans, Human Kidney’s, Garbage, and Van Gogh Have in Common?”
“Of Caviar and Orangutans, Big Trees and Cacti” “When Waste Means Wealth” “Trading the
Atmosphere”

Nancy Sheper-Hughes, “The Ends of the Body: Commodity Fetishism and the Global Traffic in
Organs,” *SAIS Review* 22, 1 (2002): 61-80.

- Wednesday: Discussion

*Can regulations overcome economic incentives? What role do citizens play in facilitating and/or
hindering illicit activity? Are domestic or international politics more responsible for illicit
transnational activity?*

- Friday: Discussion

*How do economic forces (supply & demand) tell us about the trade in human organs? To what
extent can (& should) the government regulate trade in human organs?*

Week 12 (November 7-November 11):

- Monday: Money Laundering

William F. Wechsler, “Follow the Money,” *Foreign Affairs* 80, 4 (July/August 2001)

MN ch 7 “The Money Washers”

- Wednesday: Discussion

What is the role of private business in preventing organized crime? What should the role be?

- Friday: Safe havens

Backgrounder due

Week 13 (November 14-November 18):

- Monday: Cyber crime & intellectual property

MN ch 6 “The Global Trade in Stolen Ideas”

- Wednesday: Discussion

- Friday: Cyber crime

Week 14 (November 21-November 25): **Fall Break: No classes**

Week 15 (November 28-December 2):

- Monday: Piracy in Somalia

“Pirates, Then and Now: How Piracy was Defeated in the Past and Can be Again.” *Foreign Affairs* July-Aug 2009

“Terrorism Goes to Sea.” *Foreign Affairs* Nov-Dec 2004

- Wednesday: Discussion

Who is responsible for fighting piracy? What should be done with captured pirates?

- Friday: Discussion

Is fighting piracy in Somalia a violation of sovereignty? Is it justified?

Week 16 (December 5-December 9):

MN ch 9 & 10 “What are governments doing?” “Citizens vs Criminals”

MN ch 12 & 13, “What to do?” and “The World Ahead”

- Monday: Fighting illicit activity
- Wednesday: Activity
- Friday: Review activity

Final paper due