

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 74

GANGS AND DRUGS

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 74 — GANGS AND DRUGS — 3.00 units

Definition of a gang and gang activity. Historical, cultural and ethnic/racial aspects. Interrelationships among local, national, and international gangs, including prison gangs. Gang activity in relation to drug trafficking

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Administration of Justice

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Discuss the historical background and identification of various kinds of gangs
- B. Recognize the central issues and strategies in the law related to gang prevention and enforcement
- C. Describe the Constitutional and legal restrictions dealing with gangs and gang members
- D. Recognize the major components of gangs, including recruitment organization, hierarchy, symbols and rituals, and relationships with other gangs
- E. List the most important local, national and international gangs
- F. Recognize the relationship between ethnicity or race and gang membership
- G. Describe the relation between major prison gangs and street gangs
- H. Explain the relationship of gang activity to drug trafficking
- I. Develop strategies for crime prevention in gang-related areas

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction and historical background
 1. A gang defined
 2. Historical background
 - a. Cultural influences
 - b. Family dynamics
 - c. Socio-economic factors
 - d. Peer pressure
 3. Traditional versus non-traditional gangs
 4. Social impact on neighborhoods
 5. Political response to gang problems
- B. Types of gangs
 1. Street gangs by local area
 2. Prison gangs
 - a. Mexican Mafia
 - b. Nuestra Familia
 - c. Black Guerilla Family
 - d. CRIPS
 - e. Aryan Brotherhood
 - f. Texas Syndicate
 3. Motorcycle gangs, including Hell's Angels
 4. National and international organizations
 - a. La Cosa Nostra
 - b. Aryan Nation
 - c. Yakuza
 - d. Korean Killers
 - e. Cuban Marelitos

- f. Satanists
 - g. Tongs
 - 5. Ethnic gangs
 - a. Skinheads
 - b. African-American gangs
 - c. Hispanic gangs
 - d. Asian gangs, including Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asians, Samoans and others
- C. Gang structure
 - 1. Code of ethics
 - 2. Hierarchy
 - 3. Status, recognition, and roles
- D. Money-making ventures
 - 1. Drug importation and distribution
 - 2. Drug manufacture and distribution
 - 3. Money laundering
 - 4. Robbery
 - 5. Extortion
 - 6. Prostitution
- E. Law enforcement, legal and community efforts to combat gangs
 - 1. Legal
 - a. Constitutional considerations
 - b. Laws dealing with gang membership and activity
 - 2. Law enforcement
 - a. Surveillance and monitoring
 - b. Arrest and prosecution
 - c. Corrections
 - d. Gang suppression units
 - e. Rehabilitation programs
 - 3. Community based organizations
 - a. Self-help programs
 - b. Youth centers and sports programs
 - c. Counseling and vocational training

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. **Written exercises and case studies** -
- D. **Guest Lecturers** -
- E. **Audio-visual Activity** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Complete a short research paper on gang prevention based on current and historical data on gangs
- B. Collect current newspaper articles on gang activities, focusing on involvement with crime and drugs, and give a short oral presentation
- C. Interview a drug enforcement officer and/or a drug user
- D. Complete a semester-long research paper or project
- E. Submit written answers to questions at the end of textbook chapters

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 - 1. Exams/Tests
 - 2. Quizzes
 - 3. Research Projects
 - 4. Papers
 - 5. Oral Presentation
- B. **Frequency**
 - 1. Exams/Tests - one midterm and one final exam.
 - 2. Quizzes - at discretion of the instructor
 - 3. Research Projects - minimum of one
 - 4. Oral Presentation - several throughout the semester

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Dempsey, John, and Linda Forst. *An Introduction to Policing*. 8th ed., Cengage Learning, 2016.
- 2. Barker, Thomas . *Biker Gangs and Transnational Organized Crime*. 2nd ed., Anderson Publishing, 2014.
- 3. United States Drug Enforcement Agency. *2015 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary* . 1st ed., U.S. Department of Justice, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: