DRAFT

PUBP 764-001 Transnational Crime and Corruption

Professor Louise Shelley
e-mail: lshelley@gmu.edu

Course Description:
The course will analyze the nature and impact of transnational crime and the increasing links among crime groups, corruption and terrorism. The diverse range of activities of transnational crime groups in both the legitimate and illegitimate economy will be analyzed including drugs, . This is an overview class of a broad range of topics, some of which are addressed more directly in other courses offered in the Schar School. It focuses on the public policy directed to transnational crime and its increasing role as a national and international security concern. There will also be much discussion of the role of technology in facilitating the growth of the problem will be addressed.

The impediments to effective control of transnational crime and corruption will be considered in the context of increasing globalization and the technological revolution. The class will examine the diverse dimensions of transnational crime and corruption not only from the perspective of American specialists but from those in other parts of the world. The most recent developments in drugs, money laundering, environmental crime and the use of technology to facilitate organized crime will be discussed. Legal, political, and law enforcement responses at the national and international levels will be analyzed, including the role of transparency, free press, and rule of law.

Texts:
There will be one required text. All other readings will be available on blackboard or through links.

Louise Shelley, Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime and Terrorism (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Recommended Journals:
Trends in Organized Crime (Springer)
Global Crime Cass (Taylor and Francis Publishers)

Recommended Websites:
1) See Global Initiative on Transnational Organized Crime http://globalinitiative.net/ -- many useful publications
2) See Links and publications section of TraCCC website: https://traccc.gmu.edu/
3) Klaus von Lampe’s website: http://www.organized-crime.de/
Course Requirements and Learning Outcomes:

The course is structured to gain a knowledge of the material, to improve your oral presentation skills and your research writing. It is also intended to help you synthesize information from different fields. To achieve these objectives the course requirements are as follows:

Class Attendance and Participation (35%):

Readings and Current Events: A significant amount of reading is required for the course. Students who fall behind will have a difficult time catching up. Students are expected to do the assigned reading in advance of the class. The class will presume knowledge of the readings assigned for that week. Students are expected to keep up with news on transnational crime that is reported in newspapers and on-line sources and to discuss recent developments in class each week. There are many suggestions for recommended reading. Those materials are available on blackboard and can help on research or a deeper understanding of the topic. Each week 1-2
students will report briefly on recent transnational crime developments in the press during the past week. A discussion will follow where all students are welcome to share any recent articles they find interesting. Students will sign up for a specific week to present via Blackboard after the first class meeting.

Discussion Board: There will be a discussion board question posted on Blackboard each week that you are to answer in 250 to 500 words, and then briefly comment on a classmate’s post. On weeks when there is a recommended webinar, you may watch the webinar and write a 250 to 500 word discussion of that instead. Discussion board posts are due each Sunday at 11:59pm. (Example: Week 2 discussion board posts will be due on Sunday, January 31st at 11:59pm).

Attendance: Students will be expected to attend the whole class. Attendance will be taken. Your grade will be reduced for unexplained and unexcused absences. Please inform me if you will be absent from a class.

- Weekly classes will be held via Zoom, with links provided on Blackboard and via email. All of our synchronous meetings in this class will be recorded to provide necessary information for students in this class. Recordings will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking this course during this semester.

Exam (25%):
The exam will be on April 12th. It will combine short identifications and long essays. The exam will draw on the readings, class lectures, and discussions.

Class Project (15%):
The class presentations coincide with the material for the course. You will do a group presentation on a notable case of transnational crime and corruption for which there is extensive documentation. You will lead a discussion of this actual case and prepare a PowerPoint for presentation to the class, with each group member speaking a maximum of 5 minutes. Each group member should submit 2 double spaced pages on their subtopic. This concise analysis should accompany the PowerPoint that makes the topic understandable to those who are not experts in transnational crime and corruption. You will choose a case and small group by Week 3 by signing up via Blackboard (directions on how to sign up will be shared in class and via email). Cases are suggested but there is a possibility of substitution and addition.

Term Paper Due (25%):
Length 20-25 pages, standard reference format
The topic will be chosen after consultation with the instructor. It can use insights that are obtained from the oral presentation. It should discuss a topic related to transnational crime and should develop a bibliography of diverse sources. Topics might include such topics as: The rise of drug trafficking in Afghanistan, Examining the role of illicit trade in natural resources in perpetuate conflict? How do crime groups negatively affect the environment? You can choose to
focus on a particular area of criminal activity, a region of the world or a strategy or set of strategies used to address the problem.

Special Needs:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Grading:

Students will be graded according to the following criteria:
Class attendance and participation (including discussion board) 35%
Mid-Term Exam 25%
Class Project 15%
Term Paper 25%

Plagiarism
The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the Schar School takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic
as well as printed form. The Schar policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

Weekly Schedule:

**January 25 Week 1: Introduction to the Course**

Why are transnational crime and corruption important public policy concerns and how do they relate to national and international security, especially conflicts? How does transnational crime figure in our National Security Strategy? How does transnational crime affect international commerce? Why does an understanding of these phenomena require a multi-disciplinary (history, political science, economics, financial, environmental, sociology, gender and security studies) perspective? How is transnational crime related to the prolongation of conflict? What are the linkages between transnational crime, corruption and terrorism? How has transnational crime changed in cyberspace?

**Required Readings:**

1) Required interactive material to be reviewed: [https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-governance-monitor#!/crime](https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-governance-monitor#!/crime)

**February 1 Week 2: Corruption**

Frank Vogl, guest speaker, a founder of Transparency International) [http://www.frankvogl.com/about](http://www.frankvogl.com/about)

The problem of corruption and kleptocrats has become a great policy concern in recent years as large amounts of money exit the developing world depriving individuals and societies of the resources they need. Corruption is not only a problem in the developing world but in developed countries as well. Corruption also serves as an incubator of both crime and terrorism.

**Required Readings:**

1) Louise Shelley, *Dirty Entanglements*, chapter 2, 64-96
2) Frank Vogl, *Waging War on Corruption: Inside the Movement Fighting the Abuse of Power*, 25-32 (see blackboard)

*Recommended:*

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1) Laurence Cockcroft, *Global Corruption: Money, Power, and Ethics in the Modern World*, chap 1-9, 11-32 (see blackboard)
2) Laurence Cockcroft and Anne Christine Wegner, *Unmasked Corruption in the West*, 1-7, 135-53, (see blackboard)

**February 8 Week 3 Impact of Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption**

**Librarian Visit—Kimberly MacVaugh**


Transnational crime represents a new form of authoritarianism. Transnational crime affects every aspect of life in the contemporary world, to an extent that is not yet fully recognized. Not only does it affect individual security, but, through the proliferation of narcotics and counterfeit drugs, organized crime groups have a major impact on health. The financing of elections and the infiltration of criminals into the political process in many countries undermines democracy and citizen faith in government. Intimidation of muckraking journalists by transnational crime groups is presently one of the greatest threats to journalism and independent media. The purchasing of journalists by organized criminals severely compromises the integrity of the press in many countries. Organized crime’s exploitation of labor and its ever-greater role in the smuggling and trafficking of human beings has led to large-scale labor violations and the reemergence of slavery in regions where it had been eradicated.

**Choose Case Presentation Topic**

**Required Readings:**

3) Committee to Protect Journalists, Getting Away with Murder, Fatalities,
   a. [https://cpj.org/reports/2020/12/murders-journalists-more-than-doubled-killed/](https://cpj.org/reports/2020/12/murders-journalists-more-than-doubled-killed/)
   b. [https://cpj.org/data/imprisoned/2020/?status=Imprisoned&start_year=2020&end_year=2020&group_by=location](https://cpj.org/data/imprisoned/2020/?status=Imprisoned&start_year=2020&end_year=2020&group_by=location)

**Recommended:**

February 15 Week 4: Conceptualizing the Problem: How have non-state actors evolved with globalization, the decline of the state and the rise of conflicts

The rise of non-state actors (criminals, terrorists, insurgents) has been tied to globalization, the retreat of the state and the presence of weak states and conflicts. We will examine the historical roots of non-state actors and their evolution over time.

**Submit term paper title, short description and sample bibliography**

**Required Readings:**

4) Athar project on the antiquities trade: (key findings), [http://atharproject.org/report2019/](http://atharproject.org/report2019/)
5) Jamille Bigio and Rachel B. Vogelstein, “Human Trafficking and Conflict,”
6) Global Initiative on Transnational Organized Crime, Julia Stanyard and Rim Dhaouadi “Culture in Ruins: Mali,” November 2020, (see blackboard)

**Recommended:**


February 22 Week 5: Convergence of Different Forms of Transnational Crime

**David Luna, guest speaker**

[https://traccc.gmu.edu/about-traccc/key-headquarters-personnel/david-luna](https://traccc.gmu.edu/about-traccc/key-headquarters-personnel/david-luna)

Different forms of transnational crime often converge as the criminal actors use the same routes to move different substances and function like diversified business people. Therefore, human trafficking and drug trafficking often converge and the same people may traffic in drugs, wildlife arms and people.

**Required Readings:**


**CASE PRESENTATION: Bengis:**

Methods Bengis used to try and shield his assets in Jersey:


[https://www.animallaw.info/case/united-states-v-bengis](https://www.animallaw.info/case/united-states-v-bengis)

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**March 1 Week 6: Illicit Financial Flows and Money Laundering**

**John Cassara** guest speaker

**Required Readings:**


2) John A. Cassara, *Trade-Based Money Laundering*, 2-27 (see blackboard)


4) Read: [https://globalinitiative.net/world-atlas-of-illicit-flows/](https://globalinitiative.net/world-atlas-of-illicit-flows/) (read page, whole report is useful for research)


**Recommended:**

March 8 Week 7: Business of Transnational Crime and Corruption

International organized crime groups and terrorists are now major actors in the international economy. What is money laundering and what are its stages? How is it affected by increasing technology and the increasing sums of money involved? How is offshore havens part of the regulatory problem? Why is it such an important part of the fight with organized crime?

Required Readings:

1) Shelley, Dirty Entanglements, ch. 5, 173-217
3) Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Serious Financial Crime in Australia, 2017, 12-20 (see blackboard)
4) Tom Wainwright, *Narco-Nomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel*, The People Problems of a Drug Cartel, chap 3, 53-76 (see blackboard).

March 15 Week 8: Organized Environmental Crime
Crawford Allan, Traffic, Guest Speaker
[https://www.worldwildlife.org/experts/crawford-allan](https://www.worldwildlife.org/experts/crawford-allan)

Transnational criminals function as important traders in endangered species, timber and CFCs pose major environmental threats and undermine sustainable development. They are also active in the improper disposal of hazardous waste. They are also involved in illegal carbon trading and defrauding programs for sustainable energy.

Required Readings:

1) John M. Sellar, *The UN’s Lone Ranger*, 7-28 (see blackboard)
Recommended:
1) Traffic website—for more research done by Traffic see: http://www.traffic.org/general-topics/
Videos:
2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1RRNggnM6A&feature=youtu.be (Global Witness on corruption and deforestation of Sarawak)
3) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ovik0ciF-8 (RUSI --Royal United Service Institute) Panel discussion on environmental crime as a security issue
4) For Cases of Illicit Wildlife Trade, see the website: http://animalstudies.msu.edu/animal_law.php

CASES PRESENTATION: Examining the case of environmental crime:
And

March 22 Week 9: Human Trafficking

The problems of human trafficking and human smuggling are closely related. We will examine the diverse forms of human trafficking and address the reasons for the presence of the problem in all regions of the world and the reasons that it is particularly pronounced in Asia and Africa. The complex strategies needed to address it will also be discussed.

Required Readings:

5) See video:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oINgAGBAp9w  Turning the Table on Human Trafficking

CASE PRESENTATION: Senate Investigation of Backpage:
https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Backpage%20Report%202017.01.10%20FINAL.pdf
Popular article on the case:  https://www.wired.com/story/inside-backpage-vicious-battle-feds/

March 29 Week 10: Drug Trafficking
Professor Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, guest speaker
https://schar.gmu.edu/about/faculty-directory/guadalupe-correa-cabrera

What is the nature of the drug problem? Why is it so prominent in the general problem of organized crime? How do different criminal organizations work together to perpetuate this crime? How has the drug trade affected countries where the traffickers are a dominant political and economic force? What are the new routes and new products?

Required Readings:
1) Dirty Entanglements, chap 6, 218-258.
2) Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Los Zetas Inc, 87-106 (see Blackboard)

Recommended:

CASE PRESENTATION: El Chapo case:
http://documents.latimes.com/indictment-joaquin-el-chapo-guzman/

April 5 Week 11: Transnational Crime and Technology

Transnational crime is able to function because there has been a decline of borders, a rise of ease of communications through the internet and advanced communications as well as high level facilitators. How does organized crime use the internet and encryption? How does it market its goods through the internet? How does it use sophisticated computer specialists to evade detection?
Required Readings:

1) Misha Glenny, *Dark Markets*, 1-11. (see blackboard)
3) Marc Goodman, *Future Crimes: Everything is Connected, Everyone is Vulnerable and What We can do about it*, 171-213. (see blackboard)

CASE PRESENTATION: Chinese network of human trafficking:
[https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/nationwide-sting-operation-targets-illegal-asian-brothels-six-indicted-racketeering](https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/nationwide-sting-operation-targets-illegal-asian-brothels-six-indicted-racketeering)

April 12 Week 12 Exam

April 19 and April 26 Weeks 13 and 14: Combating Transnational Organized Crime and Corruption
Shaazka Beyerle, guest speaker
[https://traccc.gmu.edu/about-traccc/key-headquarters-personnel/shaazka-beyerle](https://traccc.gmu.edu/about-traccc/key-headquarters-personnel/shaazka-beyerle)

What is the future of organized crime and what are the US and global strategies needed to address it? The class will address the strategies that are needed to combat the phenomenon in fragile states. We will also examine many other strategies that must be part of this strategy such as free and accountable journalism, following the money trail, and reducing demand for illicit commodities. How can businesses become more involved in combating transnational crime? What can be done to combat the corruption that facilitates transnational crime?

Required Readings:

1) Louise Shelley, *Dirty Entanglements*, Conclusion
2) Environmental Crime: Tackling the Greatest Threat to our Planet, [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_4bbc5cdf77384d48adf980c3ec39237a.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_4bbc5cdf77384d48adf980c3ec39237a.pdf), 6-17
4) UN conventions on Transnational Crime (Various treaties).
5) Munich Security Forum report (see blackboard)


Term Paper Due by May 10, they should be handed in by the exam time which is 430-715 (can be submitted by email)