Course Title:
Gangs, Drugs and Violence

Course Number:
HR 5100-101

Course Description:
Rapid changes in American society and culture are occurring, which are reflected in shifts in underlying value systems, social networks, and behavior. In this seminar, we will examine three areas of change: gangs, illicit drug use, and violence. We will explore these three subjects, with special attention to the ways in which they intersect with each other. Historical backgrounds of gangs, drugs and violence in America as well as current issues related to these subjects will be explored, providing seminar participants with information on potential public policy, as well as services and potential solutions.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: November 1-3 & 8-10, 2013
Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Classes are held at the Thurman White Forum Building of OCCE, 1704 Asp Avenue.
Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 3, 2013

Site Director:
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Kathie Nicoletti. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Wesley Long, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Human Relations
601 Elm
PHSC 728
Norman, OK 73019-0315
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1756
Fax Number: (405) 325-4202
E-mail Address: wlong@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahoma.bkstr.com. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Representatives are available by phone at (405) 325-3511 or (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or E-mail at 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; and 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). (Text prices are available online.)

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of the course, students will:

• Be able to identify the issues and problems resulting from gangs, drugs and violence;
• Be able to identify and understand the problems and issues involved in the empirical study of gangs, drugs and violence;
• Develop a working knowledge concerning the issues facing policymakers and practitioners in dealing with gangs, drugs and violence; and
• Be able to identify and be familiar with societal responses to gangs, drugs and violence, as well as their limitations.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:
The course objectives will be met through the following:

Attendance and Participation:
Attendance and active participation are expected. Missing an examination or failure to turn in written critiques on time will automatically lower the student’s grade one letter grade for the specific assignment.

Written Critiques: (30%).
Each student will develop three written critiques of the assigned readings. Critiques should be of a single chapter in the Curry and Decker book, or the Spergel book. Note: All critiques cannot come from the same text.

Written critiques will be due at the beginning of class on the first day of class. Please make at least two copies of your critiques. Critiques must consist of paraphrased summaries (not verbatim quotes) of the major concepts/findings of the readings. Furthermore, each review must contain a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the readings, including answered questions (what further research might be needed to more fully address the issues brought forth in the readings?). These are to be prepared individually, not as a team. Each critique should be from two to five pages in length. At a minimum, each critique must include the following information:

a. title and author of the chapter or readings being critiqued;
b. statement of the problem or issue addressed in the chapter or set of readings;
c. sources of information and a description of the methodology used;
d. the author(s)’s conclusions and recommendations; and
e. a critique of the chapter. (For example, how does the author’s opinion fit with what you believe about the problem? What issues does it suggest?)

Presentation: (20%).
Each student will develop in-class presentations on two areas of interest to the student. The presentations will be focused around materials from the assigned readings. In your presentation, you may confine the material to one chapter/sub-set of readings, or if you prefer you may draw material for the presentation from several of the texts. Your presentations should introduce the material, a summary of the major points from the reading, and I strongly recommend the use of an outline, handouts, and overheads for your classmates. Class presentations should also include questions to stimulate class discussion of the materials. The point of the presentation is to facilitate understanding of the materials. If you wish, you can incorporate additional materials into your presentation. However, make sure that you adequately address the assigned readings that you have chosen. An outline of your proposed presentation, as well as your proposed handouts, etc., will be due on the first day of class. I will review these and give them back.
the second day of class with any feedback that I have. If you wish, you can e-mail me any materials in
advance of the class, and I will be glad to provide you with feedback. Any material that you e-mail to me
should be in Rich-Text Format (RTF).

Final Essay Exam: (50%).
The final examination will be an in-class essay examination designed to help you integrate the course
materials. It will be on the last day of the class. If you require special accommodations, please talk to me
the first day of class so that I can develop an alternative arrangement.

Overview:
I. Defining Gangs
   a. What are gangs?
   b. Historical overview of gangs
II. Types of Gangs
   a. Ethnicity and Gang Membership
   b. Taggers
   c. Gender and Gangs
   d. Working Gangs
III. Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Gangs
IV. Illicit Drugs
   a. Overview of Illicit Drug Use in the U.S.
   b. Gangs and Drug Use
   c. Gangs and Drug Sales
   d. Drug Use and Violence
   e. Drug Sales and Violence
   f. Gangs and Violence
V. Public Policy, Intervention, and Strategy
   a. Law Enforcement & Policy
   b. Community Alternatives
VI. Post-Seminar Assignment: Students will be given the choice of submitting three additional
critiques from the assigned readings listed below, or, if he or she prefers, the student may
substitute one or more chapters from the optional reading list above. Each critique will follow the
format described above and will cover one or more chapters from the readings (either the
assigned texts or the optional ones listed below).

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three written critiques</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class final essay exam</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Seminar Assignment</td>
<td>December 1, 2013</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Final grades will be based on the written critiques (30% each), oral presentations (20%), and final essay examination (50%). All written work must reflect graduate level work. Each paper must be grammatically correct, free of typographical errors, and must avoid the use of racist or sexist language. Papers are expected to provide an accurate analysis of the relevant readings. Failure to submit work that is free of stylistic and typographical errors, as well as accurate in content, will result in points being deducted. Points may also be deducted for poor attendance or chronic tardiness.

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Wesley C. Long, Ph.D.

Education
1996 Ph.D. in Education, University of Oklahoma

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs Professor since 2004
• Associate Professor, Human Relations, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
HR 5013 Current Problems in Human Relations

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Teen Dating Violence
• HIV/AIDS in Minority Populations
• Adolescent Hopelessness and Depression
• Adolescent Motivation

Representative Publications and Presentations