

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE**  
**Syllabus for CJSA 1176**  
**INTRODUCTION TO GANGS AND**  
**GANG INFILTRATION OF THE MILITARY**  
**Semester Hours Credit: 1**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. This course offers an introduction to gangs in America and the infiltration of gangs in the United States military. As a starting point, we will study some of the major gangs in America and their identifying characteristics, i.e., gang tenets, signs, colors of clothing, tattoos, graffiti, behavior, shared backgrounds, and terrain. We will discuss the role of police, prosecution, prison systems, schools (D.A.R.E. and C.R.A.S.H. programs), and community in suppressing, intervening, and preventing gang activity. After laying a foundation for an understanding of gangs in America, we will move on to explore the infiltration of gangs in the military. This section of the course will address why gang members join the military (for training, weapons, income, and recruits, or to escape and find refuge from previous gang membership); how gang members slip into the ranks (relaxed recruiting standards and breakdown in Military Recruiter checklists, background checks, NCIC, and local law enforcement checks); the negative impact of gangs in the military (increase in violent, drug-related crime, murder, and death rates and erosion of unit cohesion); the strengthening impact of military training and connections on gangs; and the adjudication of gang members and gang activity within the military.
- B. This Special Topics Course is an elective and is not required for the Associates in Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice.
- C. This course is occupationally related and serves as preparation for careers in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and Corrections.

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, Introduction to Gangs and Gang Infiltration of the Military, the student will:

- A. Define, generally, what constitutes a gang and know the names and defining characteristics of major gangs in America.
- B. Discuss the roles of police, prosecution, prison systems, schools, and communities with respect to gang suppression, intervention, and prevention.
- C. Address the problem of gang infiltration into the military, including why gang members join, how they slip through various screening mechanisms, the impact of gangs in the military and military training used in the service of gang activity, and the adjudication of identified gang members and gang activity within the military.

## **III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Text: None. The instructor will provide course material.
- B. References:

- 1. Youth Gangs in American Society by Sheldon, Tracey, and Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Wadsworth Pub. 2003.

2. Gangs, Graffiti, and Violence: A realistic guide to the scope and nature of gangs in America, by Leet, Rush, and Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, Wadsworth Publishing, 2000.
3. Gangs and their Tattoos: Identifying Gang Bangers on the Street and in Prison, by Valentine and Schober, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed, Paladin Press, 2000.
4. Gang Intelligence Manual: Identifying and Understanding Modern-Day Violent Gangs in the United States, by Valentine, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed, Paladin Press, 1995.
5. Understanding Street Gangs, by Jackson, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed, Wadsworth Publishing, 2000.
6. Juvenile Gangs, by Covey, Menard, and Franzese, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, CC Thomas Pub, 1997.
7. <http://www.gangsorus.com/index.html>  
Gangs Or Us website  
Contains recent and wide-ranging material on gangs, including a link (on the left) to recent material on gangs in the military

C. Supplemental Reading:

1. Fleisher, Mark S. Dead End Kids: Gang Girls and the Boys They Know. Madison, Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin Press. 2000.
2. Shakur, Sanyika, aka Monster Kody Scott. Monster: The Autobiography of an LA Gang Member. New York, New York. Grove Press. 1993.
3. Short, James F. Jr., and Hughes, Lorine A., Eds. Studying Youth Gangs. Oxford, United Kingdom. Oxford University Press. 2006.
4. Simpson, Colton. Inside the Crips. New York, New York. St. Martin's Press. 2005.

#### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Class participation is encouraged and mandatory.
- B. Attendance. Instructors are required to keep careful attendance records using the Final Class Report (FCR). Unless a student has informed the instructor that he or she will be absent for some military related or medical reason and has arranged to make up the work, the instructor must refer the student to the Education Center for counseling if they have missed two consecutive class meetings. Excessive absences may result in a student failing the course with a grade of "FN," Failure for Non Attendance. Students are expected to take full responsibility for class attendance. When absent from class for any reason, the student has responsibility to make up assignments missed during the absences. The instructor is not required to allow a student to make up work following an absence unless the student can provide evidence that his or her absence was caused by illness or emergency circumstances.

#### V. SEMINAR FORMAT AND CLASSROOM HOURS

This seminar will be conducted in a weekend format with hours 0900 to 1230 and 1300 to 1730 on both Saturday and Sunday. This one-hour course has 16 class hours.

#### VI. EXAMINATIONS

- A. A final examination is required for this course.

- B. An examination will consist of objective (true/false, multiple choice, matching) and subjective (short answer and essay) questions. The examination will be drawn from the outline and learning objectives presented at the beginning of the course. Because students majoring in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement must be able to communicate effectively both in oral and in written form, essay answers are required.

## SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade/Total Points</u>
Final Exam	100	(A) 90-100 (4 pts) (B) 80-89 (3 pts) (C) 70-79 (2 pts)

## VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- A. **Tuition refunds** are made only in the case of class cancellation or official and timely withdrawal from CTC or from a course. Please refer to the current course catalog for more details, at <http://europe.ctcd.edu/library/catalog.php>.
- B. **GoArmyEd** students should contact their education counselor before withdrawing and are required to withdraw through the GoArmyEd portal.  
**Please note: a military withdrawal does not override CTC's grading policy.**  
 For **self-pay students**, refunds are computed from the date the Application for Withdrawal or Refund is filed with the CTC Field Representative or designated Student Services Officer. Special conditions apply to students who receive federal, state, and/or institutional financial aid.  
**Tuition and fees paid directly to the Institution** by the Veterans Administration, Title IV (Financial Aid Programs, a sponsor, donor, or scholarship shall be refunded to the source rather than directly to the students.
- C. **Course Withdrawals, Student Responsibilities**  
 It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course. The instructor cannot initiate a withdrawal based upon a student's request. Rather, students must initiate the withdrawal with the designated Education Center Representative, through the CTC Field Representative or the Student Services Officer for that region.  
 Applications for Withdrawal will be accepted at any time before the completion of 75% of the course, after which time the student will be assigned an "FN"- "Failure for Non-attendance".
- D. **Incomplete Grade Policy**  
 An "IP" or "Incomplete" grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course with the exception of a major quiz, final exam, or other project. The "IP" grade may also be assigned based on circumstances beyond a student's control, such as personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders. Notice of absences, with supporting documentation, may be required by the instructor. The instructor makes the final

decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade. With an “Incomplete” grade, students are required to complete a set amount of work before the instructor will submit an official letter grade. This date can be determined by the instructor but must be within 110 days of the course end date. After completion of the work the instructor can then change the grade of “IP” to the appropriate letter grade. If this work is not completed by the specified date the instructor will change the grade to “F”.

E. Cellular Phones and Beepers: Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.

F. American’s With Disabilities Act (ADA): Students requiring accommodations for disabilities are responsible for notifying the instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be granted in full compliance with federal and state law and Central Texas College policy.

G. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

H. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

## **VIII. COUSE OUTLINE**

### ***Session One***

Attendance, introduction, review syllabus, exam, and course requirements,  
Q and A, and lecture

Lecture, “Colors” DVD, Q and A, and library study/research time

### ***Session Two***

Attendance, Q and A, overview, “The New Face of Crime” DVD, lecture, and PowerPoint on  
“Gangs in the Military”

Lecture, examination/oral presentations/submit assigned work