

PS386 Governance and Transnational Organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean Spring 2022

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Class hours: 15:45-19:00, Friday
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course aims to build students' analytical skills in understanding the relationship between governance and transnational organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean, helping them to apply these skills to policy issues related to curbing violent criminal activities and addressing both criminal and crimilegal patterns of governance. From Mexico to Argentina, many regions and locales in the sub-continent are today immersed in a virtual vortex of criminal violence and insecurity. Though not the only cause and driver, organized criminal activities are typically identified as contributing significantly to citizen insecurity and bad governance. The global COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this situation across the region. The course builds on the lecturer's long-time experience as an analyst of organized crime, violent conflict and crimilegal governance in Latin America and other parts of the global South and will follow a comparative approach, based on detailed analysis of a number of country cases. It will also be participatory, and small groups of students will share responsibility for analysing the cases chosen for study.

Requirements

Course Reader (available at the library)

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. You will lose 10% of your participation grade for each of your absences after the first two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes).

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2022: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. The instructor will make efforts to offer

alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Participation

Participation constitutes 30% of your grade: 15% for Part I and 15% for Part II of the course. Your participation grade will be based on the quality of your participation in the lecturer-facilitated discussions in each session, the workshop and the international policy conference. That means you need to read the assigned readings in advance of the class and be ready to discuss them in class. You are expected to engage with your classmates in a respectful manner. Criticism is welcome, however offensive or demeaning language regarding any individuals or disadvantaged groups will not be tolerated. Please do not interrupt your classmates and yield the floor after a reasonable amount of time during a discussion.

Assignments

There will be a mid-term and final writing assignment in this course, each of 3500 words. The **mid-term essay** is due 18 March, and the **final essay** is due on 20 May. You will be provided detailed guidelines on these assignments as well as on the workshop and the international policy conference (see schedule below).

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown

Participation (in-class): 30%

Mid-term Essay: 30%

Final Essay: 40%

Schedule

Session	Date	Topic	Required readings
Part I of the course			

1	4 February	Introduction and organization of the course work	Bagley, Bruce. “Globalization and Latin American and Caribbean Organised Crime.” <i>Global Crime</i> 6, no. 1 (2004): 32–53
2	11 February	Political order, institutions and violence	North, Douglass, John Wallis, and Barry Weingast. “Violence and the rise of open-access orders.” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 20, no. 1 (2009): 55-68. Schultze-Kraft, Markus. <i>Crimilegal Orders, Governance and Armed Conflict</i> . Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, chpt. 2
	18 February	No session due to lecturer’s absence An additional session has been scheduled on 20 May	
3	25 February	Governance and the exercise of political authority	Krahmann, Elke. “National, regional, and global governance: one phenomenon or many” <i>Global Governance</i> 9, no. 3 (2003): 326-46. Schultze-Kraft, Markus. <i>Crimilegal Orders, Governance and Armed Conflict</i> . Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, chpt. 5
4	4 March	(Transnational) organized crime	Von Lampe, Klaus. <i>Organized Crime. Analysing Illegal Activities, Criminal Structures, and Extra-Legal Governance</i> . Los Angeles: Sage, 2016, chpts. 2 and 12
5	11 March	Criminal governance	Barnes, Nicholas. „Criminal Politics: An Integrated Approach

			to the Study of Organized Crime, Politics, and Violence.” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 15, no. 4 (2017): 967-987.
6	18 March	Crimilegal orders and governance	Schultze-Kraft, Markus. <i>Crimilegal Orders, Governance and Armed Conflict</i> . Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, chpts. 2 and 3
7	25 March	Workshop	N/A
Part II of the course			
8	1 April	The governance of transnational organized crime in Latin America and the Caribbean	Schultze-Kraft, Markus, Fernando Chinchilla, and Marcelo Moriconi. „New perspectives on crime, violence and insecurity in Latin America.” <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> 69, no. 4 (2018): 465-73.
9	8 April	Mexico	Chinchilla, Fernando. „A hard-to-escape situation: informal pacts, kingpin strategies, and collective violence in Mexico.” <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> 69, no. 4 (2018): 533-552.
	15 April	BCB break	
10	22 April	Central America	Dudley, Steven. „Public security in private hands: the case of Guatemala’s Carlos Vielman.” <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> 69, no. 4 (2018): 519–531.
11	29 April	Colombia and the Andes	Schultze-Kraft, Markus. <i>Crimilegal Orders, Governance and Armed Conflict</i> . Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, chpt. 6
12	6 May	Brazil	Albarracín, Juan. „Criminalized electoral politics in Brazilian urban

			peripheries." <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> 69, no. 4 (2018): 553-575.
13	13 May	Argentina and the Southern Cone	Moriconi, Marcelo. "Reframing illegalities: crime, cultural values and ideas of success (in Argentina)." <i>Crime, Law and Social Change</i> 69, no. 4 (2018): 497-518.
14	20 May	International Policy Forum	N/A

Essay Deadlines

Mid-term essay: 18 March

Final Essay: 20 May