OBJECTIVES:

International Political Economy scholarship has begun to pay greater attention to transnational markets for illicit goods and services. State agencies, corporations, organized criminal groups, terrorists, and others interact in these markets as participants as well as aspiring regulators. The nature of transactions in these illicit markets is multifaceted. The illicit flow of goods includes products ranging from cocaine and heroin to human body parts and weapons of mass destruction. The illicit flow of capital includes a myriad of forms of laundered money ranging from cash and securities to electronic currency and currency speculation. Illicit movements of people include the smuggling of migrant workers as well as the trafficking in women and children for sexual slavery.

The objectives of this course are threefold. First, students will learn the major theoretical approaches that seek to explain the illicit global economy. Second, students will learn the basic characteristics and mechanics of, and participants in, substantive issue areas that comprise the illicit global economy. Third, students will learn to apply and assess the merits of theoretical approaches in seeking to understand patterns of participation and efforts to control this dimension of international economic relations.

REQUIREMENTS:

The course grade will be based on two exams and a research paper. The midterm and final exams will each count for 30 percent of the course grade, the paper outline for 10 percent and the paper for 30 percent. The direction of borderline grades will be based on class participation. The midterm and final exams will consist of a combination of identification and short essay questions.

The research paper must make an argument on some aspect of the illicit global economy. To do so, the paper must identify and resolve a problem/paradox (e.g., why does a certain pattern exist where we would expect a different pattern—given theory, past experience, or the experience of other issue areas, countries or regions). A required 3-4 page outline detailing the paper’s puzzle/problem, thesis, and preliminary organization along with three annotated sources (150 words each) is due on Friday, March 2 by 6:00 pm in the class D2L dropbox. No late outlines will be accepted. The final research paper must be 10-12 pages long and incorporate at least eight research sources (four of which must be books or scholarly journal articles; course readings do not count towards the source requirement) to support the argument. The final paper is due on Friday, April 27 by 6:00 pm in the class D2L dropbox. No late final papers will be accepted. Failure to submit the outline or paper by the deadlines noted above will result in zero points for the assignment.

As will be discussed in class, research papers require citations. Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism of prior work for other courses, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Words and ideas taken from other sources must include citation of those sources. The material also must be bracketed by quotation marks if used word for word. Students can use one of the following citation formats: footnotes, endnotes, or in-text parenthetical references (the later with bibliography of sources listed alphabetically).
Students are responsible for completing and thinking about the assigned reading before coming to class. Class format will be a combination of lecture and discussion. If it becomes clear that the course readings are not being completed, the instructor reserves the right to add to the course requirements through the use of surprise reading quizzes. The successful completion of this course requires attention to both course readings and class lecture/discussions. Absence will be spot checked and academic integrity policies will conform to University regulations as described in the 2017-18 UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN.

GRADING SCALE:
1000 point total: 950-1000 = A; 925-949 = A-; 900-924 = B+; 850-899 = B; 825-849 B-; 800-824 = C+; 750-799 = C; 725-749 C-; 700-724 = D+; 650-699 = D; 0-649 = F

REQUIRED TEXTS:
There are two required texts for the course: 1) Asif Efrat, Governing Guns, Preventing Plunder: International Cooperation against Illicit Trade (Oxford, 2012 hardcover, or 2014 paper); 2) H. Richard Friman, ed., Crime and the Global Political Economy [CGPE] (Lynne Rienner, 2009). Additional readings will be on library reserve (password: 4641S18), available electronically through MARCAT, on the web, or posted on D2L.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE [READINGS SHOULD BE DONE IN THE ORDER LISTED]

Part I: Introduction

January 16: Introduction

January 18, 23: Perspectives
Read: January 18

Read: January 23:
Andreas and Nadelmann, “The Internationalization of Crime Control,” CGPE, 21-33

January 25, 30: The Challenge of Cooperation and Control
Read: January 25
Ethan Nadelmann, “Global Prohibition Regimes: The Evolution of Norms in International Society, ”
International Organization, 44, 4 (Fall 1990): focus on pp. 479-486. Excerpt on D2L
Efrat, Governing Guns, Chapter 2

Read January 30:
Reno, “Illicit Commerce in Peripheral States,” CGPE, 67-84

February 1: The Evolution of Organized Criminal Groups
Read:
Part II: Issue Areas: Drug Trafficking

February 6, 8, 13
Read: February 6, 8
Efrat, *Governing Guns*, 225-249

Read: February 8, 13
Serrano, “Drug Trafficking and the State in Mexico,” CGPE, 139-157

Part III: Issue Areas: Human Smuggling and Trafficking

February 15, 20: Human Smuggling
Read:

February 22, 27 March 1: Human Trafficking
Read:
Picarelli, “Enabling Norms and Human Trafficking,” CGPE, 85-101
Efrat, *Governing Guns*, Chapter 5

March 2 (Friday): Research Paper Outline Due, D2L by 6:00 pm

March 6: Catch up and Midterm review

March 8: Midterm Exam in class

March 13, 15: No class, Spring Break

March 20: Class Session on Writing Research Papers

Part IV: Issue Areas: Arms Trafficking

March 22, 27: SALW
Read:
Efrat, *Governing Guns*, Chapter 3
March 29: Easter Break

April 3, 5 [no class], 10: WMD
Read:

Part V: Issue Areas: Money Laundering
April 12, 17
Read: April 12
William F. Wechsler, Follow the Money,” Foreign Affairs 80, 4 (July/August 2001): 40-. On D2L
Palan, “Crime, Sovereignty and the Offshore World,” CGPE, 35-48

Read: April 17
Efrat, Governing Guns (Chapter 6, focus on pages 250-263)

Part VI: Issue Areas: Antiquities Trafficking
April 19, 24
Read:
Efrat, Governing Guns, Chapter 4

April 27: Research Paper Due: Submit to D2L Dropbox by 6:00 pm

April 26, May 1, 3
Read:

May 3: Conclusion

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8 (10:30 am-12:30 pm)