

**DRAFT SYLLABUS 8/28/17 – Subject to Revision**

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
GERALD R. FORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

**Public Policy 495: Global Issues: Illegal Drugs,  
Crime and Terrorism (Drugs and Thugs)**

*Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:30, Weill Hall, Room 1220*

**Ambassador (ret) Melvyn Levitsky, Professor of International Policy and Practice**

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*Office Hours: Wednesdays – 2-5 PM or by appointment*

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*This Syllabus should be used to get a general sense of the course and the schedule and content of classes. I often add or change class materials during the semester to address new developments. The Canvas site for the course is authoritative for both readings and assignments (under "Files"). Make it your guide for each session of the course.*

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**Course Description**

We will explore the global issues of illegal drugs and drug trafficking, international crime and terrorism. Course content emphasizes the study of drugs, crime and terrorist organizations and networks; counter-drugs and counter-terrorism policy formulation and implementation; national and multilateral programs; and the international legal and organizational framework developed to deal with these issues. I will devote considerable attention to the organizational similarities and links between illegal drugs, crime and terrorist organizations. Students will analyze conflicts between vigorous pursuit of solutions to these issues and other foreign and public policy objectives. Students will also assess lines of action national and international policy makers have initiated to find solutions and explore alternative approaches to these problems. I will place

emphasis on the tools and skills needed for policy analysis and the formulation of effective recommendations for decision making. Case studies, group exercises and simulations will be used throughout the course and there will be a number of policy writing assignments. I plan for us to follow particularly relevant issues on a regular basis this semester: in the drugs section, the effort to legalize marijuana for “recreational” purposes, and the opium problem in the US, and in the terrorism section, the efforts against the Islamic State (also called ISIS, ISIL and DAESH) in the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

## **Class Materials**

1. **Case Studies** (available in a pack at Dollar Bill Copying, 611 Church Street.)  
**You may order the course pack via:** <https://www.dollarbillcopying.com/PUB-POL-495-P2449.aspx>
  1. The General and the War on Drugs: Barry McCaffrey and the Office of National Drug Control Policy
  2. Arciniega’s War in the Upper Huallaga Valley
  3. Human Trafficking: The US and Thailand, Diplomatic Wrangles
  4. A Firm and Commensurate Response -- U.S. Retaliation for the Bush Assassination Attempt
  5. American Military Retaliation for Terrorism: Judging the Merits of the 1998 Cruise Missile Strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan
  6. The Extraordinary Rendition of Abu Omar: Ethics and the War on Terror
  7. The Predator – US Use of Drones in Targeted Killing of Terrorists.

2. **Resources - Readings and Other Materials.**

All other readings can be found in the Canvas site for PubPol 495 under **Files, Reading and Assignments**. They are organized by class session. **Overheads** for each session include graphs, charts and other visual materials. You are encouraged to view them before each session. Generally, the day before each session, I will send you an email with more specific guidance and posing questions and issues for our discussion.

You will also find the **guidelines for written assignments, lists of useful websites** and other documents and information on the **group exercise** and on the **simulation** under Files.

**Note:** If you believe you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, I can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities to help determine appropriate accommodations. I will treat any information you provide as private and confidential. I encourage you to read about Ford School policies on a number of student-related areas at <http://fordschool.umich.edu/academics/expectations>

## Assignments

[1] Case Policy Memoranda. Students should read all seven cases for class discussion. Students will write a one-page policy paper on four of the seven cases listed above. **All students will write a paper on the first case** (Drug Czar/McCaffrey case) and then choose to **write on either the Peru/Arciniega or Human Trafficking case (cases 2 and 3 above)**. They will then **choose two of the next four cases on terrorism (cases 4 – 7) on which to write a paper**. (See Guidelines in Canvas.) The last case on the Predator Drone may also be used by students who have written on four cases, but would like to raise their grade received on the first case (McCaffrey).

[2] Group memorandum and oral presentation on the drug policies of the US, other countries and NGOs. Students will be divided into groups. Each group will be assigned a topic. (The list of topics and further guidance will be in your Canvas site.) Each group will research the issues involved and use the information to write a policy memorandum of up to five pages along with a one-page Principal Points summary sheet. Each group will make an oral presentation accompanied by visual displays as appropriate, followed by discussion with a designated critique group. The groups will present their findings in our sessions on **October 19, 24 and 26**. Each group will E-mail its Principal Points paper to other groups by **Wednesday afternoon, October 18**. The due date for all memoranda is opening of class, **Thursday, October 19**.

[3] Students will participate in a classroom bioterrorism simulation on **December 5 and 7**, taking the roles of U.S. government officials grouped into agencies or organizations. Materials for the simulation will be provided later.

[4] Each student will select a topic for a policy memorandum (or a policy paper) after consultation with and approval by the instructor. The paper should cover one or more of the three transnational issues studied – drugs, crime, and terrorism. Topics should be selected and approved by **Friday, November 10**. The paper should be **7-10 pages in length**. Longer papers are subject to consultation. The paper will be **due by 5 PM on Tuesday, December 12, the final day of the course**. Canvas has more specific guidelines.

## Grading

1) Four One-Page Case Papers	- 25%
2) Group Memorandum and Presentation	- 25%
3) Class Participation, including the Simulation	- 10%
4) Policy Memorandum/Paper	- 40%

In grading written and oral presentations, I will base my judgment on the following criteria:

- Is your presentation or paper well organized, well written, concise, clear, consistent and of high quality?
- Is your analysis based on credible sources, important facts, data or at least on well-founded assumptions?
- Although I do not expect you to become an expert on every issue, do you show that you understand its core elements, its background as well as its importance and priority for decision-makers?
- Are your recommendations or conclusions based on practicality and common sense and able to be implemented? Is there a logic chain leading to your conclusion?
- I give high value to creativity, original thinking and innovative policy approaches, as long as they are based on credible, sensible and solid information.
- Be sure to edit and proofread for typos, spelling and grammatical errors and errors in syntax.

## **Class Schedule by Session and Date**

***Unless otherwise noted, all readings except the Case Studies are in the Canvas site for this class shown under “Files, Reading and Assignments” by session.***

**Before our first class, I would like students to become familiar with this Syllabus and with several websites and papers for useful background on drug and crime issues. They can be found, along with their links, in Canvas for our first session.**

### **Session 1 – 9/5/2017**

#### **Introduction to Course**

Student and instructor introductions. Overview of course. Legal and illegal drugs of abuse. Methods of analysis.

## **Session 2 – 9/7**

Illegal Drugs: Why and how they became illegal. History and evolution of the international drug control system. Natural and synthetic illegal drugs.

## **Session 3 – 9/12**

### **Supply and Demand**

Supply -Areas of Production: Coca/Cocaine, Opium/Heroin, Transit/Trafficking Routes, Controlling Chemical Precursors  
Demand - Trends in Drug Abuse in the U.S. and worldwide.

## **Session 4 – 9/14**

Transnational drug and crime organizations and law enforcement efforts to combat them. Organizational structures. Adaptation, flexibility and learning from experience. Assessing success and failure. Dealing with money laundering. .

**\*NOTE: Assignments will be made for Drug Policy Group Presentations.**

## **Session 5 – 9/19**

Organizing for drug control: The US example. The “Drug Czar.” (Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Policies and decisions.

**Case Study: “The General and the War on Drugs.” In Casebook.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-Page Policy Paper Due – From All Students.**

## **Session 6 – 9/21**

Today is the Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah (New Years). I and, likely, several members of our class, observe this holiday. In place of a formal class today, I offer you a PBS video on heroin abuse (“Chasing Heroin”) that you may watch at home or on Ford School computers. You will find it at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/chasing-heroin/>

And as a supplement to our earlier discussion on drug trafficking, I suggest you watch this if you have time:

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x14qxj\\_extreme-drug-smuggling-documentary-2011\\_shortfilms](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x14qxj_extreme-drug-smuggling-documentary-2011_shortfilms)

### **Session 7 – 9/26**

Restrictive Policies vs. Legalization, Decriminalization and “Harm Reduction.” Discussion of “Medical” Marijuana and marijuana legalization. Colorado and Washington. (And recently, Alaska, Oregon, California, District of Colombia.)

### **Session 8 – 9/28**

Drugs and Terrorism. Strategies to combat illegal drug production. Alternative development/alternative sustainable incomes. Peru in the 90s. Coca, cocaine and the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

### **Case Study: “Arciniega’s War in the Upper Huallaga Valley” (In Case Book)**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-Page Case Paper due from students who choose to write on this case.**

**See Canvas for suggested supplementary readings**

### **Session 9 – 10/3**

Drugs, Crime and Violence – Colombia’s efforts to deal with drug production and trafficking and with violent insurgencies. The peace process with FARC and the ELN. Bandas Criminales (BACRIM)

### **Session 10– 10/5**

The Opioids Crisis in the US

### **Session 11 – 10/10**

Conflicts between anti-crime policies and other national interests.

### **Case Study – “The US and Thailand: Diplomatic Wrangles in the War on Human Trafficking.” (Parts A and B) In your Casebook.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-Page Case Paper due from students who choose to write on this case.**

**See Canvas for suggested supplementary readings.**

**Session 12 – 10/12**

**TBD**

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**NO CLASS Tuesday, OCTOBER 17 – A U-WIDE STUDY DAY**

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**Session 13 – 10/19**

**Drug Policy Group Presentations Begin**

**Session 14 – 10/24**

**Drug Policy Group Presentations Continue**

**Session 15 – 10/26**

**Drug Policy Group Presentations Conclude.**

**Session 16 – 10/31**

Beginning of our segment on terrorism. Defining terrorism.

**Session 17 – 11/2**

Anti-Terrorism Treaties and the UN

**(Reminder: You must write one-page policy papers on 2 of the next 4 cases.)**

### **Session 18 – 11/7**

Dealing with State terrorism.

**Case Study: “A Firm and Commensurate Response: US Retaliation for the George H.W. Bush Assassination Attempt.” In Case Book.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-page case paper due for those students who choose to write on this case.**

### **Session 19 – 11/9**

The evolution of modern terrorism. Origins, motivations, ideology, methods of operations of modern terrorist movements.

### **Session 20 – 11/14**

Dealing with non-State terrorism. US actions in response to the terrorist bombings of US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, August 1998.

**Case Study: “American Retaliation for Terrorism: Judging the Merits of the 1998 Cruise Missile Strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan.” In Case Book.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-page case paper due for those students who choose to write on this case.**

### **Session 21 – 11/16**

Terrorism: How the landscape is changing. Leaderless Jihad or Al Qaeda Central? The rise of ISIS and its challenge to Al Qaeda. The conflict in Syria and Iraq.

### **Session 22– 11/21**

Nabbing terrorist suspects. Is everything or anyone fair game? Are there limits? Are there rules or accepted modes of conduct?

**Case Study: “The Extraordinary Rendition of Abu Omar: Ethics and the War on Terror.”**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-page case paper due for those students who choose to write on this case**



**Thursday, 11/23 – No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Session 23 – 11/28**

Targeted killing through the use of drone aircraft (remote piloted aircraft.)

**Case Study: “The Predator” In your Case Book.**

**Note: This case took place in November 2002. It is a relevant preface to the controversy surrounding the targeted killing by drone in Yemen in September 2011 of American citizen Anwar al-Awlaki in which another American was killed, and to other similar drone strikes. Additional materials in Ctools.**

**\*\*\*NOTE: One-page case paper due for those students who choose to write on this case or who wish to have this case paper graded in place of the first case.**

**Session 24 – 11/30**

**TBD**

**Session 25 – 12/5 and Session 26 – 12/7**

**Bioterrorism Simulation – Biological Blackmail**  
Scenario, Background Material and assigned roles in Ctools.

**Session 27 – 12/12 – WRAP-UP**