

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy - Fall 2015
PubPol 495: Global Issues: Illegal Drugs and Terrorism
(Drugs and Thugs)

DRAFT SYLLABUS 8/30/2015 – Subject to Revision

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:30. Weill Hall, Room 1220

Instructor

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

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Office Hours – Wednesdays – 1-5 PM or by appointment

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 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. The instructor will devote attention to the similarities and links between illegal drugs, crime and terrorist organizations. Students will analyze the conflict between vigorous pursuit of solutions to these problems and other foreign and public policy objectives. Students will also assess lines of action that national and international policy makers have initiated to devise solutions to these problems and explore alternative approaches to them. The instructor 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 two particularly current and relevant issues on a regular basis this semester: in the drugs section, the effort to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes, and in the terrorism section, the rise of ISIS(also called ISIL and DAESH) in the Middle East.

***Note:** This Syllabus should be used to get a general sense of the course. I often change class content during the semester to address new developments. The CTools site for the course is authoritative for both readings and assignments. Make it your guide for the course.

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.

Class Materials

1. **Case Studies** (available in a pack at Dollar Bill Copying, 611 Church Street.)
 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. Democratic Dilemmas in the U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America
 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 CTools site for PubPol 495 under **Resources, "Reading and Assignments."** They are organized by class session. 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 Resources. **Overheads** for each session include graphs, charts and other visual materials. You are encouraged to view them before each session.

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 Democratic Dilemmas 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 CTools.) 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 CTools 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, and followed by discussion with a designated critique group. The groups will present their findings in our sessions on **October 15 and 22.** The due date for all memoranda is opening of class, **Thursday, October 15.** Each group will

E-mail its Principal Points paper to other groups by **Wednesday afternoon, October 14.**

(3) Students will participate in a classroom bioterrorism simulation on **December 8 and 10**, 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 13**. (The paper should be **5-7 pages in length**. Longer papers are subject to consultation.) The paper will be **due by 5 PM on Monday, December 14**. CTools has more specific guidelines.

Grading

1) Four One-Page Case Papers	- 20%
2) Group Memorandum and Presentation	- 20%
3) Class Participation, including the Simulation	- 20%
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 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 CTools site for this class shown under “Resources, Reading 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 CTools for our first session.

Session 1 – 9/8/2015

Introduction to Course

Student and instructor introductions. Overview of course. Legal and illegal drugs of abuse. Methods of analysis - “Seven Whats and a Who.”

Session 2 – 9/10

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

Session 3 – 9/15

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 – 9/17

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 – 9/22

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 – 9/24

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

Session 7 – 9/29

Drugs and Terrorism. Strategies to combat illegal drug production. 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.**

Session 8 – 10/1

Drugs, Crime and Violence – The examples of Colombia, Mexico and Central America.

Session 9 – 10/6

Conflicts between drug policies and other national interests.

Case Study - Democratic Dilemmas in the U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America. In your Casebook.

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

Session 10 – 10/8

Opium/Heroin and Amphetamine Type Substances (ATS) trafficking from Central and Southeast Asia. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand.

Session 11 – 10/13

Drug Policy Group Presentations Begin

Session 12 – 10/15

Drug Policy Group Presentations Continue

Tuesday, 10/20– No Class – Fall Study Break

Session 13 – 10/22

Drug Policy Group Presentations Conclude

Session 14 – 10/27

Beginning of our segment on terrorism. Defining terrorism.

Session 15 – 10/29

. The evolution of modern terrorism. How has it changed and how is it changing? Origins, motivations, ideology, methods of operations of modern terrorist movements.

Session 16 – 11/3

Counter-terrorism: The international dimension. Anti-terrorist treaties and conventions. The UN role.

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

Session 17 – 11/5

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 18 – 11/10

Dealing with non-State terrorism. US actions after 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 19 – 11/12

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 20 – 11/17

Continuing the discussion of ISIS and Al Qaeda. The Sunni-Shia conflict. Iran and Hezbollah. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Yemen, Al Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM), Libya.

Session 21 – 11/19

9/11 – Origins and evolution. A National Geographic film.

Session 22 – 11/24

Nabbing terrorist suspects. Is everything and 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, 11/26 – No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday.

Session 23– 12/1

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. 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 – 12/3

Bioterrorism Simulation – Biological Blackmail

Scenario, Background Material and assigned roles in Ctools.

Sessions 25 – 12 8

Bioterrorism Simulation - Continued

Session 26 – 12/10

Wrap - Up