

SECURITY THREAT GROUPS (CJSA 1371 2A1)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: **Dennis White**

Email: **dwhite@lit.edu**

Office Phone: **409-247-5277**

Office Location: Technology Center Building Room 214

Office Hours: **By appointment**

MONDAY: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

TUESDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY: 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

THURSDAY: 10:00 am – 10:30 am; 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

FRIDAY: 8:30 am – 10:00 am



**LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (**3** hours lecture, **0** hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of Security Threat Groups and their impact on communities, law enforcement, the military, and schools throughout the United States. Includes methods of combating domestic and international Security Threat Groups' operations, narcotics traffic, the mind of the gang member, and the criminal enterprise of security threat groups and organized crime's impact on terrorism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Identify security threat groups and organizations Examine gang's political, economic, and environmental impact on public administration and the private sector.

Identify the legal changes required to combat gangs.

Present the results of gang research.

1. Acquire and use information in the social science area of social problems.
2. Think creatively, make decisions, and know how to reason in reference to deviant behavior recognition and interpretation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. *Understanding Gangs and Gang Violence in America*, Gabe Morales, First Edition, Cognella Academic Publishing, 2021 (ISBN 978-1-5165-8232-7)

REFERENCE MANUAL

1. *Drug Cartel and Gang Violence in Mexico and Central America*, Robert O. Kirkland, Newly Revised First Edition, Cognella Academic Publishing, 2020, (ISBN 978-1-5165-9958-5)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students must sign in a minimum of three times per week online Blackboard. Participation is assessed through submission of assignments and weekly log-in activity. Activities may consist of class assignments, group activities and individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Below schedule subject to change.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1	Overview – Chapter 1 An Introduction to Gangs	Orientation <i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 1 September 18, 2026	September 18, 2026
Week 2	Gang Violence	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 2 September 18, 2026	September 18, 2026
Week 3	Early Street Gangs in America	<i>Textbook</i> : Chapter 3 September 18, 2026	September 18, 2026

Week 4	Jacket Gangs, Motorcycle Gangs, and Other Gangs	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 4 September 18, 2026	September 18, 2026
Week 5	Black Gangs	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 5 October 16, 2026	October 16, 2026
Week 6	Hispanic Gangs	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 6 October 16, 2026	October 16, 2026
Week 7	Asian and Pacific Islander Gangs	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 7 October 16, 2026	October 16, 2026
Week 8	White Gangs	October 16, 2026 <i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 8 October 16, 2026	October 16, 2026
Week 9	Female Gang Involvement	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 9 November 13, 2026	November 13, 2026
Week 10	Global Gangs Outside the United States	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 10 November 13, 2026	November 13, 2026
Week 11	Gang Prevention	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 11 November 13, 2026	November 13, 2026
Week 12	Gang Intervention	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 12 November 13, 2026	November 13, 2026
Week 13	Gang Crime and Police Response	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 13 December 1, 2026	December 1, 2026
Week 14	Conclusion	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 14 December 1, 2026	December 1, 2026
Week 15	Review	<i>Textbook:</i> Chapter 15 December 1, 2026All course projects and assignments due	December 1, 2026
Week 16	Final Exam	Final Exam must be submitted by 11:30 a.m. on December 7, 2026	Final Exam on Blackboard from December 3-7, 2026

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 3 Exams + 1 Final: 20 %
- Course Project: 20 %
- Assignments: 50 %
- Participation: 5 %

- Attendance: 5 %

GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

AI STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into the classroom

instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

1. EXAMS – All Exams will be administered on BLACKBOARD.
2. ASSIGNMENTS – All Assignments will be submitted via BLACKBOARD.
3. COURSE PROJECT – The Course Project will be submitted via BLACKBOARD.
4. Participation/Attendance – Participation is assessed through assignments or exercises completed online. Activities may consist of class assignments or individual analysis of information from various sources including the text. However, six unexcused absences will result in a 50% grade reduction in the Participation/Attendance Grade.
5. Students **MUST** log in to BLACKBOARD a minimum of three times a week to view announcements, to view exam dates for availability and due dates for exam completion, check e-mail, etc.
6. The Course Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.