Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4 (GWP 229)  
Email: chowson@uw.edu  
Cell phone (text preferred): (931) CHOWSON  
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/groups/1475077396040883/  

**Trafficking, corruption, informality and crime: Investigating the illicit global economy**  
Illicit and illegal flows of goods, services, information, money and even people, cross national borders every day, representing a critical and understudied dimension of the global economy. This course introduces students to the sources of regulation, networks and incentives that drive illicit transactions. Case studies will include smuggled goods, from music and cheese to credit card numbers and human organs, as well as illicit services such as money laundering and counterfeiting. As they investigate the opportunities and challenges these issues present for global governance and economic development, students will gain insight into the contributions and methods of different social science disciplines.

**Core Student learning objectives**  
- **inquiry & problem solving:** collect, evaluate, and analyze information and resources to solve problems or answer questions.  
- **research methods & application:** approach complex issues by taking a large question and breaking it down into manageable pieces.  
- **synthesis & context:** make meaningful connections among assignments and readings in order to develop a sense of the ‘big picture.’  
- **argumentation:** formulate an original thesis-driven argument and sustain it in both written and verbal communication.  
- **global perspective:** interact with concepts, ideas, and processes related to the interdependences between personal, local, and global relationships.  
- **diversity:** think outside of cultural norms and values, including their own perspectives, to critically engage the larger world.

**Class Rules and Expectations:**  
1. **Skill-building:** Every activity is connected to a skill that will benefit you in your academic and professional work. If you are unsure about how your coursework relates to your intellectual development, it is your responsibility to discuss your questions and your goals with me (in addition to your advisors, peers and other professors).  
2. **Group engagement:** You are responsible for cooperating and participating with your group, including doing your share and working through potential conflicts.  
3. **Technology:** No calls/texts, emails or social media in class. You can use technology for note-taking, but you will need to turn in those notes every day. You will often use technology for in-class projects and presentations, so you will need to practice doing so professionally.  
4. **Food:** within reason (don’t bring anything that requires silverware or will make hands messy – remember that we will be trading papers regularly)  
5. **Talking/interrupting:** be respectful – we should all feel comfortable being critical of each other’s viewpoints without being attacked.  
6. **Late Papers:** Late reading comments and in-class worksheets will usually be accepted for half credit, provided that late work does not hinder class progress. Research assignments will incur a 10% penalty for every calendar day they are late. Group activities cannot be late.
7. **Disability services**: If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact Disability Support Services as soon as possible. If you have a request that can be accommodated more easily, you should check with me. I am happy to adjust lighting, visuals, sound, seating, etc., as long as your request does not interfere with other students.

8. **Extra help**: General UWT policies and services are on Canvas.

**Assignments**: Your final grade will be based on the following scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Responses</th>
<th>15%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Development Project (January 19)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Debate (Feb 9 or 16)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal (January 31)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ungraded Research Progress</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Paper (February 23)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Presentation (March 7)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper (March 9)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class/group participation, headlines</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final GPA grade will be based on the following scheme, in accordance with the UW grading scale below, available online here: [http://faculty.washington.edu/scstroup/Gradescale.html](http://faculty.washington.edu/scstroup/Gradescale.html)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A/A-</th>
<th>B+/B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+/C</th>
<th>C-/D+, etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-98</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>88-87</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97-96</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95-94</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-92</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-89</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments and activities**:

1. **Class/group participation (7.5%)**: Active and consistent participation is not only a necessary tool for you to learn the content of this course. Participation, itself, is one of the key learning objectives and will be assessed in the following ways.
   a. **In class**:
      i. **Handouts**: Class notes and handouts will be graded as check plus (100%), check (85%), check minus (75%) or Zero. Feel free to send me a picture of your notes if you want to keep them. If you are absent and it is possible to make up some of our work, you can complete handouts and copy class-notes for half credit.
      ii. **Speaking**: Try to open your mouth at least every other class, but not so much that others speak less. If you have trouble in class, you can always pick up points by communicating more with me (email, text, office hours, facebook, canvas, etc.).
      iii. **Group work days**: Avoid tardiness, especially on any day that involves work on a graded group assignment (debate, presentation, etc.). Tardiness will result in a 50% loss of participation points on these days because your classmates are depending on you.
   b. **The day's headlines (3 posts, 3 comments, 1 in class)**: This class requires that you engage critically with current events around the world. We will regularly devote a few minutes of class to headlines, most of which will be from non-western sources. Each student should share a news item once in class, but you should not need to spend more than a few minutes preparing. Most of you will also use the class facebook group to post at least three headlines and comment on three others. If you do not use facebook, then you should share a few extra headlines in class or
with me. If you are unsure how to find non-Western news sources in English, the following links are useful: [http://www.world-newspapers.com/](http://www.world-newspapers.com/) and [http://www.allafrica.com/](http://www.allafrica.com/).

c. **Virtual classroom:** Occasionally, we will not meet as a class, so that you can meet with me individually or online. In these cases, the point is that your learning (especially individual research) is more productive outside of the classroom. We will all be working overtime during these times in the quarter.

2. **HW - Reading responses (15%):** All readings and discussion questions are available on Canvas. Questions are designed to teach you to target your reading in the kinds of journal articles that you will need for your research. These will be graded based on your effort, not whether you are correct. Grades will be check plus (100%), check (85%), check minus (75%) or Zero. Late HW assignments are accepted for half credit. You will not usually receive specific feedback unless there is a problem. Please use Microsoft Word extensions.

   a. **Final reflection homework:** The last ungraded homework assignment does not include a reading. Instead, you will be asked to reflect on the course as a whole. You will have discussion prompts and be asked to reflect on a question in a 300-500 word response. To receive full credit, you will refer to content from different kinds of assignments, including: another group’s presentation (project, debate, or in class activity), a reading assignment, and some insight from your paper.

3. **(URP!) Ungraded Research Progress:** Each graded research assignment is preceded with a pass/fail assignment that allows you to make significant progress and get feedback before you have to turn in a major assignment.

   a. **Temporary Half-credit:** Many students will get 50% initially, with a request that you resubmit for full credit. This gives you a chance to improve so that your graded research is on track when it’s time for the graded assignment.

   b. **Late URP! Submissions:** Ungraded research progress can be submitted for half credit until 24 hours prior to the graded research deadline. After that, it cannot be accepted for credit.

4. **Group Project (15%):** With your group, propose an original project addressing a key sector of illicit economic activity. You should use a PowerPoint presentation, video or web site. I will give you time to coordinate and organize your project in class so you will not be required to meet with your group outside of class. You should include the following areas: budget and where you will get funding; problem and any field research needed; actors to be consulted; staff to be hired; intended beneficiaries and expected outcomes. Feel free to use internet resources, learn from existing projects, and/or pretend to be part of an existing NGO, but cite your sources and do not copy an existing proposal (obviously!). This project is meant to be fun and to facilitate discussion about what is involved in development practice. You will be evaluated on your willingness to think about what goes into such a project, to learn new things and to consider local communities. I am not concerned with whether I think your project would be successful. My goal is to give you a chance to work together, brainstorm and express/discover your own interests.

5. **Group debates (5%):** There will be two in-class debates during the quarter based on the readings of the day. Half of the class will participate in a debate on NGOs and terrorism on February 9. The other half of the class will hold a debate on rule of law in conflict zones on February 16. You will be graded on your prepared notes as well as your oral statements.
Individual Research Paper: The final paper will be a 2500 word (approximately 10 page minimum) research project analyzing a specific issue related to the illicit global economy. The style will be Chicago (author-date). This project is intended to be undertaken throughout the quarter and will include the following intermediate deadlines:

1/21  **Meet with Dr. Howson:** You should come to my office during the first three weeks of the quarter to discuss your research, goals and progress.

1/24  **Ungraded: Paper Topic and Organized Bibliography:** Developing a complete bibliography is among the most difficult and critical components of a research paper. You need at least 15 academic sources. You will have skimmed them enough to organize them by types of articles, so that you have a basic sense of the literature on your topic.

1/31  **Research Proposal (15%):** a two-page proposal will discuss the question you are investigating, how it relates to the course and how you will go about your research. You should include a substantial (probably revised) bibliography. I will provide further guidelines and an example proposal as this deadline approaches. Beware that even students who are comfortable with academic research should spend at least 15 hours on this proposal, including library research, reading and writing.

2/9 OR 2/16  (Depending on your debate group)  **Ungraded outline with citations:** Most of the content of a research paper comes from your research. This means that you need to know which authors you will cite for each section of your argument. Once that is done, your paper is much easier to write.

2/20  **Add/Drop Deadline (struggling students only):** Make sure that you have a graded proposal and an acceptable outline for your paper (meaning you know what you’re writing about and you have legitimate sources). If you are in danger of failing the class, this is the weekend you will need to drop or switch to pass/fail.

2/21  **Ungraded: In-class peer review of research paper draft:** Submit your paper online AND bring a paper copy. This will be graded as a percent of draft completed, by number of words and number of different citations. You must use a citation manager to automatically update your bibliography.

2/23  **Full Paper (15%):** Your complete full length paper is one step in the writing process in a writing intensive class. Don’t be deceived by the notion of a draft, since this should be a very polished paper. I will post your graded draft with suggestions for your revision after 7 days.

3/7  **Group Presentation of Research Findings (5%):** Different research topics and findings are connected in important ways that will help you connect the themes of the course. This assignment involves sharing your research with students whose papers or findings are related to yours. In the oral presentation, you will share the key lessons generated from your research papers. Present your findings in a short oral presentation to the class. Use PowerPoint, slides or a handout to help the class follow along.

3/9  **Final Research Revisions Due (15%) at 11:59pm:** Your final paper will be graded on the same criteria as your earlier drafts, but you will be expected to incorporate assigned revisions. In addition to your revised paper, you will need to submit a brief URP Ungraded Revisions Memo that explains what you did to address the suggested revisions and anything else you did to improve your paper. You should begin with my feedback from your draft and respond to each directly. Note: an unrevised paper will receive a zero.
Week 1: Introduction
1/3 Understanding the illicit global economy


*In class*: Groups will evaluate and revise homework assignments in order to present an example to the class. This will give everyone the chance to do an ungraded group presentation before graded projects.

Week 2: From informal to illegal: Livelihoods and civil society


*In class*: (Part 1) Homework discussion; (Part 2) Time to work on group projects.

1/12 Group progress: Instead of a reading assignment, submit what you have done to contribute to your group (explain your part, provide your slides, a list of sources, etc.). In class, work together to practice and revise your group presentation so that it is coherent.

Week 3: Case studies and group presentations

1/17 **Group Project Due (post online and share in class)** - Deadline to meet with professor (sign up genius or by appointment)


Download Zotero (follow a youtube tutorial) and submit a pretend bibliography.

*In class*: (Part 1) Livelihoods lecture; (Part 2) Activity to explore research topics and find sources.

Week 4: Legal ambiguity and contesting criminality

1/24 **Organized Bibliography/paper topic due online and in class**

*In class*: Be prepared to discuss your bibliography and where you see your research going with the class.


*In class*: class discussion of homework; resubmitted bibliographies due (if necessary).

Week 5: Conceptualizing corruption and gender roles

1/31 **Research Proposal DUE online by 11:59pm**


*In class*: Choose which graded debate you plan to do and make teams; consider critiques of the evidence on gender and corruption to prepare for graded debates and research papers. This will include an illustrated review of the literature.
Week 6: Debate 1: NGO Terrorists

In class: Non-debaters are excused from class but must still turn in homework. Debaters will use class time to prepare.

2/9 NGO Terrorists DEBATE
Resolved: Law enforcement agencies should use any legal means available to prevent the funding of suspected terrorist organizations in any country even if this means that charitable organizations will be unable to serve people in need.

Non-debaters: Fully cited paper outline due at 11:59pm
In class: Non-debaters are expected to turn in turn in detailed notes from the debate round.

Week 7: Debate 2: Rule of law in conflict


In class: Non-debaters: Fully cited paper outline due at 11:59pm. Non-debaters are excused from class but must still turn in reading homework. Debaters will use class time to prepare.

2/16 Debate 1 (Rule of Law): Team Rule of Law - Donors should support Good Governance and rule of law in post-conflict countries by emphasizing law enforcement capacity. Team Real World Donors should focus on the reasons for illicit accumulation by understanding and supporting the livelihoods of poor people in war economies.

In class: Non-debaters will turn in detailed notes from the debate round for participation.

Week 8: Research Progress
2/21 Peer review and research communication workshop

In class: Bring a complete draft of your paper to class and submit it online. Your grade will be the percent of the paper that is complete (100% if you have at least 2500 words and 15 legitimate sources cited in text).

2/23 Full Research Paper DUE at 11:59pm

Week 9: Wrap up and presentations
2/28 In class film: TBA

3/2 Final Reflection Homework

In class: Course wrap up and assignment of group research presentations according to research area. Note: an unexcused absence without instructor permission will result in a 10 percent penalty for the group research presentation

Week 10: Conclusions
3/7 Group Research Presentations and Class Party

3/9 Final Revisions DUE at 11:59pm