

**Prison Gangs**  
**CJ4302**  
**Fall 2014**

**2014**  
**Web**  
**SYLLABUS**

**Notice – this class requires that you maintain and check your Sul Ross Email Account. All announcements for this course will go to your Sul Ross Email. Check it daily. If you miss assignments, you will not be allowed to make them up.**

You also must maintain a working computer and connection. If you have problems along those lines, **contact the help desk for instructions** – I cannot fix computer problems. If you do have a problem however, email me at once so I know your status. If you fail to notify me of your problem then you will likely lose credit if you tell me after- the-fact.

**Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Hunter**  
MAB 109D  
Office Phone: 837-8666

**Dr. Hunter**

Fall Office Hours, I'm around a lot, so you can always try. These times for sure.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9am – 12pm,

and by email anytime. Email [rhunter@sulross.edu](mailto:rhunter@sulross.edu). **This is the best way to reach me.** My email hits my phone just like a text message, so this is really the fastest way to get to me.

Also by appointment: If you are unavailable during the above times, appointments can be made with me as to the exact time and date for a meeting..

## **I. REQUIRED TEXT**

### **(1) The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System**

David Skarbek  
Oxford University Press  
ISBN: 9780199328505

### **(2) Games Criminals Play: How You Can Profit by Knowing Them**

Bud Allen/Diana Bosta  
1<sup>st</sup> edition  
Rae John Pub Co  
ISBN: 9780960522606

**Note: You may be better off getting it from a web bookstore.**

## **II. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT**

The class is designed to familiarize students with the sociological and legal issues concerning Prison Gangs. The course will consist mostly of class discussions on Black Board, **and student reviews of videos I've post for you to watch** in Black Board. You are required to be a part of the discussion part of the class. Don't be afraid to ask questions and/or expand on topics on your own Reading assignments are expected to be completed at the time of the class period, and will be represented on Exams. You must read the assigned text to pass this class. **The videos will also be represented on the exams.**

### **Learning Objectives, Expectations and Goals**

**Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of Prison Gangs, as well as, the political, Legal and sociological aspects of this issue. Students will also be able to discuss specific “critical issues” such as: The History of Prison Gangs, the influence of Prison Gangs, Prison Gangs and Street influence, and the volatile political aspects on this issue.**

**Exams:** There will be 2 Exams (45% each) and your participation on the discussion board (10%). That is the grading for this course – 90% total on the two exams and 10% on the Discussion board. Ignore any “Grading point system” that Blackboard may generate for you, it is meaningless. Your grading will be as listed above.

**Exam 1 will cover all of book 1**

**Exam 2 will cover all of book 2**

### **Exam start Dates**

**Exam 1 – October 20th**

**Exam 2 – Dec. 5th**

Note: additional exam questions will require the use of web searches and web sources like videos.

**All Exams are timed!** You will have a set time to complete the exam. Once time has been reached the exam will auto-submit what you have completed so far. Only start the exam when you are ready and have all the time you need to finish it. Exams will be available for a number of days.

**Undergraduates** will take two 50 question exams covering the material listed above. The Exams will last 2 hours.

### **III ATTENDANCE and Discussion Board Participation.**

I will expect everyone to participate in the class

I will post 2 topics or so a week on the discussion board. You are required to participate in each of these topics weekly. Videos for your review will also post weekly. When you watch the videos, be sure to take notes as question from the videos will be on the exams.

#### **Discussion Board**

**This is ten percent of your grade, please note the following:**

This is a “Discussion” Board, not a post a quick comment and leave board. Comments such as “I agree”, “Good Post”, or similar one liner are not going to be considered posts. Your post **MUST** stimulate a discussion. Additionally, using “texting” speak is not appropriate, and those posts will not be considered for grade. The “introductions” thread is just that. Just post something about yourself.

This is a upper level course, so you have the option of presenting a different view, even one you do not agree with! Mix it up. Present opposing points of view. Get after each other but **KEEP IT CIVIL.**

**If you post off topic or attack or defame any other participant in the Discussion board. You will lose the entire 10% of your final grade.**

Get a discussion going, and get involved in that discussion.

The **Discussion threads will stay open for only one week.** If you do not post and miss the question or video, you have lost any credit for that posting.

#### **IV. COURSE GRADING**

Grading will be as follows: A=100-90%, B=89.99-80%, C=79.99-70%, D=69.99-60%, F = below 60%

Exam dates:

#### **Exam start Dates**

Exam 1 – October 20th

Exam 2 – Dec. 5th

Week 1 – August 25 – Introductions

Week 2 – September 1- History of Prison Gangs

Week 3 – September 8 – Impact of Gangs on Prison Operation

Week 4 – September 15 – The lockdown of Prison Gang Members

Week 5 – September 22 – The Aryan Brotherhood

Week 6 - September 29 – La Emme

Week 7 – October 6 –The Black Gorilla Family

Week 8 – October 13 – The Texas Syndicate

**Week 9 – October 20 – Exam I Opens October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Week 10 – October 27 – Barrios Azteca's

Week 11 – November 3 – Crips

Week 12 – November 10 Bloods

Week 13 – November 17 – Future

Thanksgiving Break November 26-30 – School Closed

**Week 14 – December 1 – Exam II Opens on December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Week 15 – December 8 – Exam

December 14 - Graduation

## **Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)**

**PLO 1.** Demonstrated knowledge of specific areas of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to specific legal liabilities of criminal justice professionals. The ability to identify, assess, and compare Constitutional protections and individual rights and recognize violations of those Rights. Workable knowledge of the most significant legal challenges to criminal justice policy and the resulting changes to those policies.

**PLO 2.** Demonstrate knowledge of Criminological theories, and apply those theories to practical criminal justice events. The ability to identifying a prominent criminological theory within an actual criminal event or simulated criminal event. The ability to compare and contrast the basic concepts of the differing competing Criminological Theories.

**PLO 3.** Working knowledge of the specific language of the Criminal Justice and the ability to identify the individual parts of the CJ System. An awareness of the costs associated with the Criminal Justice System, and the ability to recognize and be aware of political influence on the system. The ability to apply historical knowledge of the CJ system and recognize patterns of system change.

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.