

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVESRITY-RIO GRANDE COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
DEL RIO \* EAGLE PASS \* UVALDE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGAM  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

- COURSE TITLE:** CRIM 3304: Law and Society
- COURSE PERIOD:** Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:15 PM
- INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ferris Roger Byxbe [fbyxbe@sulross.edu](mailto:fbyxbe@sulross.edu)
- BIOGRAPHY:** <http://faculty.sulross.edu/fbyxbe>
- OFFICE:** Faculty Offices Building 205, Del Rio Campus
- OFFICE PHONE:** 830-703-4834 Office, 830-703-4831 Fax
- OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Thursday 09:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 3:30 – 4:30 PM
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An analysis of the American criminal justice system. This course of study will provide an overview of the history, philosophy, and contemporary functions of the separate institutions which contribute to the process as a whole. Each of the major divisions – police, courts, and corrections – will be examined for their contributions, assumptions, and interrelations. The fundamentals of crime and justice will be addressed.
- TEXTBOOK:** Experience Criminal Justice, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (2013)  
Nicole Hendrix and James Inciardi  
McGraw-Hill Education  
ISBN: 978-0078140907
- ACADEMIC SUCCESS:** Students are encouraged to adhere to the following recommendations in order to achieve academic success in this course.
- (1) **ATTEND** all class sessions
  - (2) take comprehensive **NOTES** in class
  - (3) **READ** assigned chapters in your textbook
  - (4) know key **CASES/CONCEPTS/TERMS**
  - (5) **PREPARE** timely for each examination
  - (6) See **Blackboard** for student study guides
- COMPUTER LABS:** Rio Grande College computer labs are open Monday – Thursday 9:00AM - 9:00PM and Friday 9:00AM – 4:00PM. **RGC Computer labs are not open weekends.** However, students may

avail themselves to the SWTJC computer labs with a valid ID. Students should have available a high-speed internet connection on a regular basis for off-campus course work, exams, assignments and research.

**DISHONESTY:**

Academic cheating and plagiarism is not acceptable behavior. It violates university policy and human ethics. If a violation occurs the penalty will result in the grade of “F” for the semester.

**EXAMINATIONS:**

Exams have been structured to mandate maximum participation in this course of study.

- There will be a chapter exam each week on Blackboard.
- Chapter reading assignments, research and writing endeavors are of the utmost importance in student assessment and evaluation.
- Exams will consist of multi-formatted questions taken from weekly assignments.
- It is recommended that all exams be taken in the computer laboratory on the Rio Grande College campus. However, this is not required. Exams may be taken at any location using a high-speed internet connection. Firefox browser is recommended for accessing all Blackboard exams.
- Weekly exams will be made available for 24 hours each Tuesday commencing early (morning) 12:00 AM and ending late Tuesday night at 11:59 PM.
- Weekly exams may be accessed one-time only for a period of 75 minutes (one class period). Students exceeding the allotted time will be timed-out of Blackboard. All exams must be completed in one sitting. Exams may not be saved and returned to later.
- Mobile apps are available to facilitate access to your course materials in Blackboard. However, be aware that any difficulties with your carrier, or jumping from cell tower to cell tower will likely disrupt your connection. For this reason, you are advised [required] NOT to use a cell phone for tests for it may be detrimentally affected by service disruptions. Please note that calling the faculty member to have an exam reset will be limited - also note that to reset an exam is a courtesy – NOT a requirement. You are strongly advised [required] to take all exams on a computer at a stable location having a strong and consistent connection.”

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

If a student for any reason:

- fails to take an exam
- fails to complete an exam

- fails to submit an exam  
this will result in an “F” for the exam.

*The professor assumes no responsibility for student omissions or technology problems. Should a student be dropped off-line the instructor will reset the exam during the testing period ONLY. To Contact the instructor send an immediate email to [fbxbe@sulross.edu](mailto:fbxbe@sulross.edu). Assistance from OIT or the instructor will not be available after 9:00 PM.*

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b><u>GRADING SCALE:</u></b> | 1170 -1300 = A |
|                              | 1040 -1169 = B |
|                              | 910 -1039 = C  |
|                              | 780 - 909 = D  |
|                              | 0 - 779 = F    |

NOTE: Each exam is worth 100 points x 13 exams = 1300 total points.

**SEMESTER GRADES:** Final semester grades are reported to the Office of Admissions & Records at the conclusion of each semester and grades are posted on Banner for student review.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon attending class, taking comprehensive notes, and reading assigned chapters in the textbook with a thorough analysis of the key concepts, terms and case law within each chapter the student will acquire extensive knowledge of the following subject-matter materials to be inclusive on each examination.

### **Chapter 1: Criminal Justice in America**

- Compare and contrast the meaning of the terms *criminal justice*, *criminology*, *criminal law*, and *criminal procedure*.
- Summarize the models of criminal justice, including the due process, crime control, wedding cake, and funnel models.
- Describe the development of criminal justice as a professional and academic discipline.
- Identify and explain the major themes in modern criminal justice.
- Acquire tools for critically analyzing information you encounter about the criminal justice system and process.

### **Chapter 2: Defining and Explaining the Role of Criminal Law**

- Explain natural law and describe how this concept might impact the definition of crime.
- Define *crime*, including the legal definition and the meaning of each of its elements.
- Compare the various defenses to criminal liability.
- Describe the sources of criminal law.
- Discuss the major theoretical explanations of criminal behavior.

### **Chapter 3: Identifying and Measuring Crime**

- Provide legal definitions for the major categories of criminal offenses: homicide, forcible rape, assault, robbery, arson, and burglary.

- Describe the major contexts of criminal offending.
- Identify and describe the two major sources of crime statistics
- Compute and interpret a crime rate.

#### **Chapter 4: The Process of Justice: An Overview**

- Explain the differences between inquisitorial and adversarial justice.
- Define and describe the “nationalization” of the Bill of Rights, and identify the significant Supreme Court decisions associated with the nationalization process.
- Define “due process of law,” and contrast substantive and procedural due process.
- Describe the stages of the criminal justice process and what occurs at each stage.
- Explain why the criminal justice process is both a system and a non-system.

#### **Chapter 5: The Structure and Function of Policing**

- Trace the historical development of modern policing.
- Identify the differences among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in terms of jurisdiction and authority.
- Describe the functions of police.
- Explain the structure of police organizations.
- Discuss the status of women in American policing.

#### **Chapter 6: Policing Cases and concepts: The Law of Arrest, Search and Seizure**

- Identify the circumstances under which police may conduct a search without a warrant.
- Describe what the plain view doctrine is and the implications for police investigation.
- Examine the role of the exclusionary rule in police behavior.
- Explain the role of police in obtaining confessions as defined by the Supreme Court.
- Explain the legal issues related to show-ups and lineups as investigative techniques.
- Identify and discuss the limitations placed on police for using exemplar investigative techniques.

#### **Chapter 7: Police Conduct and Integrity**

- Define police integrity and professionalism.
- Define and explain the causes of police corruption.
- Define police brutality, and present the preliminary explanations for why it occurs.
- Describe the circumstances under which police may use deadly force according to the *Tennessee v. Garner* case.
- Identify the best ways of controlling police misconduct and increasing integrity within policing.

#### **Chapter 8: The Structure and Function of American Courts**

- Trace the evolution of the U.S. court system.
- Describe the major types of courts in the state system and the relationships between them.
- Define and identify an example of a specialty court.
- Describe the history and functions of the U.S. Supreme Court, including the significance of the *Marbury v. Madison* case.
- Explain the major functions of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and others in the

courtroom workgroup.

- Discuss the role of prosecutorial discretion, including plea bargaining and the *nolle prosequi*.

### **Chapter 9: The Business of the Court: From First Appearance through Trial**

- Identify the stages of the criminal court process.
- Explain the bail system and the challenges of pretrial release.
- Describe the main issues related to grand jury proceedings and double jeopardy.
- Define the kinds of pleas available to defendants.
- List the types of pretrial motions and explain the purposes of these.
- Explain the rights related to speedy and public trial, including jury selection.
- Outline the steps in the criminal trial and the types of evidence that can be presented.

### **Chapter 10: Sentencing, the Death Penalty, and Appeal**

- Explain the philosophies of sentencing and punishment.
- Describe the various kinds of sentences.
- Compare the contemporary sentencing strategies for imprisonment.
- Identify the sentencing reforms developed in response to criticism of disparities in the sentencing process.
- Describe the Supreme Court interpretation of cruel and unusual punishment, including how it applies to the death penalty.
- Explain the arguments in the debate surrounding the death penalty.
- Identify the reasons a conviction can be appealed.

### **Chapter 11: The Structure and Function of American Corrections**

- Identify the key themes in the history of punishment, including the contributions of the classical school of criminology.
- Describe the structure of corrections in the United States.
- Compare and contrast the types of correctional institutions operating in modern America.
- Describe the typical administrative features of correctional institutions.
- List and describe the types of programs that commonly operate in correctional facilities.

### **Chapter 12: Life on the Inside: Institutional Conditions and Inmate Rights**

- Describe the inmate experience, including the unique situation of women in prison.
- Explain the legal principles that allow inmates to challenge conditions of confinement.
- Describe the rights of inmates regarding religion, mail, rehabilitation, medical treatment, and institutional discipline.
- Describe the contemporary trends in confinement, including the privatization of prisons.

### **Chapter 13: Community-Based Corrections**

- Describe the philosophy of community-based corrections.
- Explain criminal justice diversion and the reasons it is used.
- Define and give examples of intermediate sanctions.
- Explain probation and the services associated with it.
- Describe parole and the controversy surrounding its use.

- Identify the issues related to reentry of offenders into society.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLO):** The graduating student will

- 1) Demonstrate proficiency in the application of legal concepts, theoretical applications, scientific principles, and historical trends in the criminal justice arena.
- 2) Demonstrate the application of organizational principles, cultural, social and behavioral knowledge, critical thinking skills and cognitive thought processes within the criminal justice arena.

***SEMESTER CALENDAR, READING ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM DATES***

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| WEEK ONE:<br>Aug. 26 & 28      | Chapter 1: Criminal Justice in America<br>Syllabus  |
| WEEK TWO:<br>Sept. 2 & 4       | Chapter 2: Defining and Explaining the Role of Criminal Law<br>Exam #1, Chapter 1: Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>                    |
| WEEK THREE:<br>Sept. 9 & 11    | Chapter 3: Identifying and Measuring Crime<br>Exam #2, Chapter 2: Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| WEEK FOUR:<br>Sept. 16 & 18    | Chapter 4: The Process of Justice: An Overview<br>Exam #3, Chapter 3: Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>                                 |
| WEEK FIVE:<br>Sept. 23 & 25    | Chapter 5: The Structure and Function of Policing<br>Exam #4, Chapter 4: Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>                             |
| WEEK SIX:<br>Sept. 30 & Oct. 2 | Chapter 6: Policing Cases and Concepts: The Law of Arrest, Search and Seizure<br>Exam #5, Chapter 5: Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| WEEK SEVEN:<br>Oct. 7 & 9      | Chapter 7: Police Conduct and Integrity<br>Exam #6, Chapter 6: Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>   |
| WEEK EIGHT:<br>Oct. 14 & 16    | Chapter 8: The Structure and Function of American Courts<br>Exam #7, Chapter 7: Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>                       |
| WEEK NINE :<br>Oct. 21 & 23    | Chapter 9: The Business of the Court: From First Appearance through Trial<br>Exam #8, Chapter 8: Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>      |
| WEEK TEN:<br>Oct. 28 & 30      | Chapter 10: Sentence, the Death Penalty, and Appeal<br>Exam #9, Chapter 9: Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>                            |
| WEEK ELEVEN:<br>Nov. 4 & 6     | Chapter 11: The Structure and Function of American Corrections<br>Exam #10, Chapter 10: Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>                |
| WEEK TWELVE:<br>Nov. 11 & 13   | Chapter 12: Life on the Inside: Institutional Conditions and Inmate Rights<br>Exam #11, Chapter 11: Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>   |
| WEEK THIRTEEN:<br>Nov. 18 & 20 | Chapter 13: Community-Based Corrections<br>Exam #12, Chapter 12: Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| WEEK FOURTEEN:<br>Nov. 25 & 27 | <b>Thanksgiving Holidays -- 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>.</b><br>No Exam Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>         |

WEEK FIFTEEN:

Dec. 2 & 4

Exam #13, Chapter 13: Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

WEEK SIXTEEN:

Dec. 8 - 11

Final Exam Week (None Scheduled)