

**Forensic Ballistics**  
**CJ 4320 (Spring 2015)**  
**MAB 107**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**11:00 – 12:15**

**SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Hunter**  
MAB 109D  
Office Phone: 837-8166

**Office Hours**

Tuesday -- 9am – 11 am  
Wednesday – 9am – 11am  
Thursday -- 9am – 11am  
Friday – By Appointment Only

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. **Email [rhunter@sulross.edu](mailto:rhunter@sulross.edu).**

**I. REQUIRED TEXT**

Handbook of Firearms and Ballistics; Brian J. Heard  
2nd Ed.; Wiley Press  
ISBN: 978-0470694602

Selected Articles on Library Reserve

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT**

This is a **University level** class. This is an adult environment. Subjects and topics may include material that may be controversial in nature. Adult language, violence, politics, and deviant behavior may be present in videos and in material for this class. The class is designed to introduce students to the **fundamentals** of Forensic Ballistics. **Much of the material is very technical in nature.** The course will consist of class lectures and considerable class discussions (you must read the assigned material before class). I will expect questions and interaction from the class. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Reading assignments are expected to be completed at the time of the class period. On occasion videos will be shown to enhance class material. **My expeditions for the quality of work will be high.** Do not expect an "A" as a grade unless you put forth exceptional effort. You must take notes in this class!

**Outdoor Activities:** Dependent on Range availability and other circumstances, some classes will be held at The Big Bend Sportsman's Club, approximately a mile and a half west of Alpine on Route 90. In order to meet class requirements each student is responsible for obtaining a membership. Memberships may be purchased in person from:

**Dan Petrosky, 125 N. 6h St., Alpine or Dodson Guns, 3201 N Hwy 118, Alpine**

**Safety:** This class requires the full attention of each student in regard to firearms safety. We will spend a good amount of time on the proper SAFE HANDLING of weapons systems. Any students who handle a firearm in an unsafe way or act in an unsafe way at the range, **will be removed from the class with an "F."** All students will be required to sign a safety understanding and liability waiver form.

**Learning Objectives/Expectations and Goals:** Students will be able to demonstrate specific knowledge in the identification of various weapons systems. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of firearm ballistics through the evaluation of various ballistic markers. Students will be able to compare and contrast various ballistic systems and identify specific traits of each. Students will be able to discuss the historical evolution of firearms development.

**Exams:** Exams will be given on the date noted in the course outline, (or adjusted as necessary with the pace of the class). Exams will consist solely of True/false and multiple choice questions. **All information presented in class or as assigned reading will be subject to examination.** There will be **no make up exams** except for individuals who have a legitimate excuse **and** who have made **prior** arrangements with the instructor. Individuals who are authorized a make-up exam will take an **essay exam** on the missed material. You must show an authorization slip from the instructor to take any makeup work. There will be **no** "incomplete" grades given unless there are **significant** circumstances **and** documented evidence of such circumstances. Assignments that are not turned in on time will not be accepted. You will need to provide your own "Scan-trons" for exams.

### **III. ATTENDANCE**

I will expect everyone to attend class (**I will take role**), you will be unable to pass this course if you don't show up and take notes, your grade will reflect your absence. Expect your grade to reflect the effort that you put into your work. Simply doing the minimum requirements for this course will result in a minimal grade. Only exceptional work will result in an exceptional grade. If you do the work, you will be rewarded. See attached attendance policy. Any authorized make up work must be approved by the instructor and a signed slip showing this authorization must be presented on "**Makeup Day**" before a makeup is allowed. All makeup work will be done only on "**Makeup day**" **Thursday, Dec. 3rd at 8:00 A.M., in room MAB 107.** **All makeup exams will be essay – No exceptions!**

### **IV. COURSE GRADING**

The course grade will be based on, two (2) tests and a final Exam, **Test 1 (20%) Test 2 (20%) Comprehensive Final Exam (45%) Class participation 15%** total of 100%

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

## **Department of Criminal Justice Policy on Student Absences**

The Department of Criminal Justice feels very strongly that class attendance is a direct predictor of student classroom success. Therefore, the faculty of the CJ department as a group will enforce the following student attendance policy. This policy does not supercede the Sul Ross State University policy on student attendance; it simply reinforces those stated goals. Criminal Justice faculty will take class attendance. In accordance with current University policy (Catalog page 69-70), when a student misses a total of 9 hours of class, **the presumption is that the student will be dropped from that class with an “F”**. Student’s who violate the SRSU attendance policy may also find that they are ineligible for any extra-credit or any discretionary grading curve applied to any or all exams for that course/semester. It should also be noted that it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor prior to any University event that would cause an absence. Failure of the student to inform the instructor will result in that absence recorded as unexcused. Attendance is important! Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility and a serious attitude toward education. Many times students’ wish letters of recommendation from their instructors. Prospective employers or graduate programs are all interested in a student’s class attendance record. Additionally, instructors seldom teach directly from the book. Missing a class (even an excused absence) will put you at a disadvantage for all of the materials covered when you were absent such as film, presentations and guest lectures which cannot be made up.

Note: Qualified students with disabilities, needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, in Counseling and Prevention services, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-117, Alpine, Texas 79832 (915-837-8203)

## **Spring 2015 Class Dates Forensic Ballistics (Tentative Outline)**

<b>Week 1</b> Jan 19	Basic Terminology	
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 26	Firearm types - historical	
<b>Week 3</b> Feb 2	Firearm types - modern	
<b>Week 4</b> Feb 3	Handguns early	
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 9	Review for Exam 1 Exam 1	
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 16	Handguns modern	
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 23	Handguns modern	
<b>Week 8</b> March 2	Handguns modern	
<b>Week 9</b> March 9	Handgun Ammunition	
<b>Week 10</b> March 16	Spring Break	
<b>Week 11</b> March 23	Terminal Ballistics	
<b>Week 12</b> March 30	Terminal Ballistics	<b><u>(Gun Range April 2)</u></b>
<b>Week 13</b> April 6	CSI	<b><u>(Gun Range April 9)</u></b>
<b>Week 14</b> April 13	CSI	<b><u>(Gun Range April 16)</u></b>
<b>Week 15</b> April 20	Review	<b><u>(Gun Range April 23)</u></b>
<b>Week 16</b> April 27	Exam 2	<b><u>(Gun Range April 30)</u></b>

**Week 16**

May 4                      Review for final

**Week 17**

May 11                     Final Exams

**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.