

Criminal Justice 4302 Prison Gangs

Instructor: Arleene Pearson, MS
Office Phone: 432-837-8166 - secretary 432-837-8614 - direct
E-mail – apearson@sulross.edu
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-11, 2-4 or by appointment
Office: MAB 106

Text:

THE SOCIAL ORDER OF THE UNDERWORLD

9780199328505 (Week 1-9)

GAMES CRIMINALS PLAY:HOW YOU CAN PROFIT

9780960522606 (Week 10-16)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will focus on prison gangs, where gangs originated from, how they are taken into prisons, what happens once prison gangs are in full effect. It will also focus on Present-day gang activity in and out of prison and the repercussions that follow. By the end of the course students will be able to understand and identify how gangs were started and how they are starting, how the function within a prison system and have a more detailed insight of the games criminals play.

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, asses, 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.

Course Delivery:

This course will be contained within the Blackboard format and will not meet in person during the term. Students are expected to log in regularly to complete assignments. Students should familiarize themselves with all of the sections of blackboard available for this course. Assignments and tests will be listed under the appropriate subheading. Students will also need to become familiar with the discussion board for completing some of this work.

Technical problems can be reported to me - through e-mail is usually the best idea, and/or to the Help Desk at 432-837-8888 locally, 8888 from on campus or 1-888-837-2882 from out of area. You can also log into the LTAC system and create a ticket by going to <https://techassist.sulross.edu/> If you report an issue through the Help Desk or create a ticket by logging into the system, you should send me an email with a description of your issue and the ticket number so I can help ensure that technical issues are addressed and do not negatively affect your grades. If you do not promptly report your technical problems, you will not get credit for any work affected by the problem.

Requirements:

Final grades for this course will be based on your performance on the following items: Chapter Quizzes – 10 points each for a total of 120 points (30%), Discussion Questions (20%), one Cumulative Final Exam (30%) and news article summaries (20%).

Tests:

The Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions per chapter. There are 12 chapters so this means a total of 120 points. The Quiz schedule will be listed under the exams section –There will be no make-ups for these quizzes. The Cumulative Final Exam will be worth 100 points – it will include 7 or 8 questions per chapter from the entire book – in a multiple choice format. This exam will be available only December 7-9.

Discussion Questions:

Each week there will be 1-2 discussion questions posted on the discussion board of Blackboard. Students will need to log-in frequently in order to deal with these questions in a timely manner. Students will also be expected to respond to the information posted by other students which may mean logging in several times a week. Rules for the content of the responses will be posted under the assignment section for this class. Students are expected to contribute in significant ways to the discussion boards, based on the readings, but also on personal experience and knowledge gained through other course work, media reports, etc. This portion of the course is expected to replace the normal dialog that would occur within an in-class course and students will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the subjects being discussed. This should mean that students will have to do outside research.

Student Café:

To enhance the discussion of the course and ensure that students have a mechanism to seek answers to both course related and outside questions, a Student Café area has been posted in the Discussion Board area. Students may post any question or helpful information they wish to share with their fellow students and the professor. It is not required that students post anything here and this is not a part of the course grade. It is for student benefit only. Posts may not be abusive or otherwise offensive.

News Summary Assignment:

Students will be required to find news items related in some way to prison gangs. Students should summarize the main points and post it to the discussion board. Each student will then be required to comment in a meaningful way on at least 3 of these posts. Students are not required to comment on all of the posts. Rules for this assignment are posted in the assignment section of the class.

Code of Conduct: This is an upper level course and students are expected to behave as professional adults. Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and assignments. Cheating and plagiarism on tests or assignments will result in a grade of “F” on that part of the course, a possible grade of “F” for the entire course, and possible recommendation for suspension from the university.

Plagiarism consists of presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting examinations or other work in whole or in part as one’s own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person (see the Student Handbook).

Open discussion of course issues is encouraged, however, abusive, offensive or otherwise inappropriate language will not be tolerated – this includes profanity, racial/ethnic slurs, personal attacks on other members of the course, etc. Part of the learning process is learning to communicate effectively and professionally. A direct quote from a published source may occasionally contain such language, but use of the quote should be limited and explained – why is it necessary to use such quote?

Any assignment containing abusive, offensive, or profane language, or creating an offensive environment in the course will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment. The introductory question and the student café are not graded; however occurrences in these areas will result in 20 points per occurrence being subtracted from the overall Discussion Question grade – just like getting a 0 on one of the graded questions.

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.

Important!

See your instructor promptly if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance.

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 Accessibility Services Office, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-122, (432) 837-8203.

Tentative Class Schedule – Subject to change if needed

Week 1 – August 24 –Introduction Question, News Summary 1

News Summary is due Thursday August 27. Responses are due by Sunday August 30.

Week 2 – August 31 – Discussion Question 1 – read Chapter 1 - Quiz

Week 3 – September 7 – Discussion Question 2 – read Chapter 2 - Quiz

Week 4 – September 14 – Discussion Question 3 – read Chapter 3 - Quiz

Week 5 – September 21– Discussion Question 4 – read Chapter 4 - Quiz

Week 6 – September 28– Discussion Question 5 – read Chapter 5 - Quiz

Week 7 – October 5 – Discussion Question 6 – read Chapter 6 - Quiz

Week 8 – October 12 – Discussion Question 7 – read Chapter 7 - Quiz

Week 9 – October 19 –**Mid-Term Exam – The Social Order of The Under World**

Week 10 – October 26– Discussion Question 8 – read “Definition and Terms” - Quiz

Week 11 – November 2 – Discussion Question 9 – read “The Set-Up” - Quiz

Week 12 – November 9 – Discussion Question 10 – read “Case histories” – Quiz

Last day to drop with a “W” Friday November 13

Week 13 – November 16 – Discussion Question 11–read “You can feel IT in the air”- Quiz

Week 14 – November 23 – Discussion Question 12 – read “Manipulators at large”- Quiz

Week 15 – November 30 – News Summary

News Summary is due Thursday November 26. Responses are due by Sunday November 29.

Week 16 – December 7 - Final Exam – Games Criminals Play – December 7-9

December 12, 2015 Graduation Day!!!