

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CJ-2321: Special Topics in Cybercrime Investigations (Spring, 2016)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Rubin  
**Office:** MAB 109  
**Office Phone:** 432-837-8166  
**E-Mail:** [mrubin@sulross.edu](mailto:mrubin@sulross.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday (10:00AM – 11:00AM, 1:00PM – 2:00PM, and 3:00PM – 4:00PM). Other times by appointment  
**Class Times:** Monday and Wednesday: 11:00AM – 11:50AM  
Friday (Unless otherwise noted in schedule): Discussion board assignment

**Required Texts:**

Maras, H. M. (2015). *Computer forensics: Cybercriminals, laws, and evidence* (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett. ISBN: 978-1-4496-9222-3.

*Additional required readings will be assigned in class and posted in the CONTENT section of the BlackBoard Courseroom.*

**Nature of the Syllabus**

This syllabus is an academic contract between the instructor and the student. Any oversights, contradictions, or discrepancies will be clarified by the instructor as the oversight is discovered.

**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.

**Course Description:** This course discusses the wide array of criminal acts that can be committed using a computer or the Internet. Emphasis will be placed on how those acts can be successfully investigated and prosecuted. Additionally, the course will discuss the legal aspects of search and seizure, and proper procedures for handling digital evidence via-a-via the rules of evidence. An overview of the Deep Web is also discussed.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Students are expected to do their own work on all assignments and exams. Cheating and plagiarism on assignments will result in a grade of “F” on that part of the course (first offense), a possible grade of “F” for the entire course (second offense).

### **Students with a Disability**

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

### **!!!!!!!Important!!!!!!!**

Contact Dr. Rubin sooner rather than later if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance.

### **Grading:**

Exams (2 @ 16% each)	32%
Discussion Questions (9 @ 3%)	27%
Investigations Project	16%
Final Exam	25%

### **Course Requirements:**

**Mid-Term Exams:** Two mid-term exams will be given as noted in the course schedule to verify student’s knowledge of key issues as presented in class and in the textbook. Exams will be approximately 33 questions in length. Exams questions will be presented in multiple choice format.

**Discussion Questions:** Students will be presented with a discussion question related to the chapter readings and related lecture notes for the week. Discussion questions will become visible each Thursday at 6:00AM. Students are expected to post their initial discussion thread to the associated discussion board NO LATER THAN Friday at 11:59PM Central Time of each week. Your post should be AT LEAST 350 words in length.

**Investigation Project:** In addition to lectures, this course incorporates a hands-on investigative unit where students will demonstrate effective investigative techniques related to more ‘popular’ cybercrimes. Students will prepare an investigative report base on their *assigned* investigations.

**Final Exam:** A non-comprehensive final exam will be given as scheduled by the university. The final exam will be 50 questions in length. Exams questions will be presented in multiple choice format.

NOTE: We will be screening a major motion picture in this class. The movie contains some strong language and brief nudity. Be advised.

### Course Schedule

**Week 1 (20 – 22 January): Introduction & The Dark Web**

**Class meets Wednesday and Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Reading Assignment is on Blackboard

**Week 2 (25 – 29 January): The World of Cybercrime**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 1

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 1

**Week 3 (1 – 5 February): Legal Issues and Computer Access**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 2

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 2

**Week 4 (8 – 12 February): Search and Seizure**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 3

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 3

**Week 5 (15 – 19 February): Search and Seizure**

**Class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 4

**Assessment:** Exam 1 will be administered on Friday and will cover chapters 1 – 4

**Week 6 (22 – 26 February): Cybercrime Laws**

**Class meets Monday, Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 5

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 4

**Week 7 (29 February – 4 March): Cyber Gangs and White Collar Crime**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapters 6

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 5

**Week 8 (7 – 11 March): Cyberterrorism**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. No Discussion Question this week.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 7

**Week 9 (14 – 18 March): SPRING BREAK !!!!!!!**

**Week 10 (21 – 25 March): Finding Electronic Evidence**

**Class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 8

**Assessment:** Exam 2 will be administered on Friday and will cover chapters 5 - 8

**Week 11 (28 March – 1 April): Investigation Project**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Investigation Work Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** See Content section of Blackboard

**Week 12 (4 – 8 April): Cybercrime Scenes**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 9

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 6

**Week 13 (11 – 15 April): Corporate Cybercrime**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 10

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 7

**Week 14 (18 – 22 April): Email Forensics**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 11

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 8

**Week 15 (25 – 29 April): Mobile Devices**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Discussion question Friday.**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 12

**Assessment:** Discussion Question 9

**Week 16 (2 – 6 May): Testify!!!**

**Class meets Monday and Wednesday ONLY. Friday: Dead Day**

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 13