

**Senior Seminar
CJ 4309
Spring 2016
On the Web**

SYLLABUS

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

Dr. Hunter
Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 8am – 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.

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.

I. REQUIRED TEXT

None – Reading/Studying for the Senior Seminar Exam is best accomplished with any good “**Intro To Criminal Justice**” textbook.

There will also be considerable readings from Web sources.

II. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT

The class is review of all of the issues presented in the SRSU Criminal Justice Program. It is designed to prepare you to pass the Senior Seminar Exam with a 70% or better. You have only two tries at the exam.

The course will consist mostly of class discussions on Black Board, **and Student Presentations** 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 start topics on your own

Exams: There will be a number of “**Practice Exams**” which are not worth anything.

The Final – The Senior Seminar Exam, will be the sole Exam grade. You **MUST** pass it with 70% or better to pass the class. **It will count as 80% of your final grade** – if you pass it! You get only two tries at the exam!

There will be additional information regarding each exam included under assignments in Black Board.

Presentations: Each student will post a presentation on Black Board, it is worth 20% of your grade – If you pass the Senior Seminar Exam!

I will give you some time, a week or so, to pick a topic for your presentations. More information will be included under assignments within Black Board.

III. ATTENDANCE and Discussion Board Participation.

I will expect everyone to participate in the class

I will post about 2 topics a week on the discussion board. You are required to participate in each of these topics weekly. You are also required to add to EACH PRESENTATION by other students. **The participation in the board will be 20% of your total grade!**

Discussion Board

In addition to the presentations and student comments there will be questions placed in the message boards to simulate classroom discussion. Each student is required to respond to these questions and answer any questions raised by other students. Make sure that you check the Message boards often to keep up with the discussion threads.

This is a large part 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.**

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, you have lost any credit for that posting.

Student Presentations

Video Presentations: **The month of April**

Each student will be assigned a video for their presentation during the Month of April. The presentation will consist of a review and critique of the assigned video. The student will relate the subject matter contained within the video with topics that have been discussed in the course.

Your presentations will be placed on the Discussion Boards on the thread assigned for you. This presentation is intended to simulate classroom discussion and each student is required to make comments on the presentations that are given. **All Video presentations must be completed by April 25th and all comments, must be completed by May 1st.**

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%

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 (432-837-8203)

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.

Spring 2016

Tentative Schedule

Week Of

Jan 18 Introductions of yourself in Black Board Discussion Board area

Jan 25 Discussion Board – Policing

Feb 1 Discussion Board – Corrections

Feb 8 Discussion Board - Corrections

Feb 15 Discussion Board – Criminology

Feb 22 Discussion Board – Criminology

Feb 29 Discussion Board – Parole

March 7 Discussion Board – Probation

March 14 Spring Break

March 21 Discussion Board – Jails

March 28 Discussion Board - Victims

April 4 Discussion Board – Legal

April 11 Discussion Board - Legal

April 18 Discussion Board Legal

April 25 Discussion Board Legal

May 2 First attempt at Senior Seminar Exam

May 9 Last time to take Senior Seminar Exam

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.