

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 5331
SPECIAL POPULATIONS IN CJ

Instructor: Dr. Lorie Rubenser

Office Phone: 432-837-8166 - secretary 432-837-8168 - direct

E-mail – rubenser@sulross.edu

Office Hours: MTW 8-11, W 1-4 or by appointment

Office: MAB 109

Texts:

Toth, Crews and Burton (2008) In the margins: Special populations and American Justice. ISBN -13: 978-0-13-028431-0

Walker, Spohn, Delone (2012) The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America (5th Ed) Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781111346928

Course Description: This course will explore issues related to minorities at all levels of the system from three perspectives: employees, victims, and offenders. At the end of the course the student should have developed a knowledge of and appreciation for the complexity of the effect of the criminal justice system on the lives of minorities in this country.

Criminal Justice Graduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs):

CJ PLO 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.

CJ PLO 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.

CJ PLO Ability to identify, assess and compare policy processes and outcomes in criminal justice. Ability to identify and analyze various legal challenges to laws and policies within criminal justice.

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.

As this is a graduate course, students will be expected to be self-motivated, and work independently. Standards for graduate courses are higher than those for undergraduate work – students will engage in more research, reading, and writing. Any computer glitches must be reported promptly or the student will not receive credit on the affected 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: 3 Exams (20% each), Discussion Questions (25%), 3 news assignments (15%).

Tests: The exams for this course will consist of essay (at least 3 paragraphs - intro, body, conclusion) questions. The Exam schedule is posted under the Quiz, Test, Exam section of the course. **There will be no make-ups for these exams.** The exams will each cover material from the readings and will also relate to the questions on the Discussion Board. As such students are expected to read the responses to the Discussion Questions carefully and to do any research needed to master the information presented.

News Assignment: Students will be required to find 3 news items related in some way to minorities in criminal justice. 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. Students will write 3 summaries and 9 responses to others to complete this assignment. Details for this assignment will be posted under the assignment section of the course.

Discussion Questions: Each week there will be 1-2 discussion questions posted on the discussion board of Blackboard. Students will need to log 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.

Code of Conduct: This is a graduate 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 Course Schedule (Subject to change as needed)

Book 1 – Toth

Week 1 – January 19 –Introductory Discussion Question, Discussion Question 1, readings – Chapter 1

MLK Day holiday on the 18th so assignments begin on the 19th.

Week 2 – January 25 – Discussion Question 2, readings – Chapter 2-3

Week 3 – February 1 – Discussion Question 3, readings – Chapters 4-5

Week 4 – February 8 - Discussion Question 4, readings – Chapters 6-8

News Assignment 1 original post due February 12

Week 5 – February 15 - Discussion Question 5, readings – Chapters 9-10

Week 6 – February 22 - Discussion Question 6, readings – Chapters 11-12

News Assignment 1 responses to others due February 26

Test 1 – February 25-29

Book 2 – Walker, Spohn, Delone

Week 7 – February 29 - Discussion Question 7, readings – Chapter 1

Week 8 – March 7 - Discussion Question 8, readings – Chapters 2-3

News Assignment 2 original post due March 11

Daylight Savings Time Begins – March 13 – Move clocks ahead one hour

Spring Break – March 14-18

Week 9 – March 21 - Discussion Question 9, readings – Chapters 4

Week 10 – March 28 - Discussion Question 10, readings – Chapters 5

News Assignment 2 responses to others due April 1

Test 2 –March 31-April 4

Week 11 – April 4 - Discussion Question 11, readings – Chapters 6

April 8 – last day to drop a class

News Assignment 3 original post due April 8

Week 12 – April 11 - Discussion Question 12, readings – Chapters 7-8

Week 13 – April 18 - Discussion Question 13, readings – Chapters 9

April 18 – Honors Convocation – 7:30 p.m. Marshall Auditorium

News Assignment 3 responses to others due April 22

Week 14 – April 25 - Discussion Question 14, readings – Chapters 10-11

Test 3 – April 28 - May 2

May 16 - Graduation