

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVESRITY – RIO GRANDE COLLEGE  
DEL RIO \* EAGLE PASS \* UVALDE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM  
SUMMER SESSION COURSE SYLLABUS**

- COURSE TITLE:** CRIM 4309: Seminar in Criminal Justice  
*Topic: Significant Cases in Criminal Procedure*
- COURSE PERIOD:** Online Web Course
- INSTRUCTOR & EMAIL:** Dr. Ferris Roger Byxbe [fbyxbe@sulross.edu](mailto:fbyxbe@sulross.edu)
- BIOGRAPHY:** <http://faculty.sulross.edu/fbyxbe>
- OFFICE:** Faculty Building 205, Del Rio Campus
- OFFICE PHONE:** 830-703-4834 (Office) or 830-703-4831 (Fax)
- OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Thursday. Please email Dr. Byxbe for an appointment.
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class is intended to serve as a capstone course for undergraduate criminal justice students in the study of significant U.S. Supreme Court cases that address criminal procedure within the legal arena. This course of study is intended to provide the student with an understanding of legal research and case opinions and to provide a detailed abstract analysis of cases without wading through a myriad of lengthy judicial rhetoric found in typical law books.
- TEXTBOOK** Significant Cases in Criminal Procedure 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2013)  
Craig Hemmens, Alan Thompson, Lisa Nored  
Oxford University Press  
ISBN: 978-0-19-995791-0
- ACADEMIC SUCCESS:** Students enrolling in online Web Courses at Rio Grande College must be aware that such courses are not self-paced and require considerable vested time in order to meet requirements. Students should be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time to accomplish the requisites in this course. Each semester will require a student to devote approximately 12 hours per week to each web class – which equates to 3 hours of class time plus 9 hours of reading, research, writing and other course preparation.
- COMPUTER LABS:** Rio Grande College computer labs are open Monday – Thursday 8:00AM - 9:00PM and Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM. **RGC**

**Computer labs are not open weekends.** However, students may avail themselves to the SWTJC computer labs with a valid ID.

**DISHONESTY:**

Academic cheating **and plagiarism** are not acceptable behaviors. It violates university policy and human ethics. If a violation occurs the penalty will result in the grade of “F” for the semester.

**GRADING SCALE:**

Grade assessment will be premised upon the **Analytical Writing Rubric** provided in Blackboard.

**SEMESTER GRADES:**

Final semester grades are reported to the Office of Admissions and Records at the appropriate time. Student grades are posted on Banner for review at the conclusion of each semester.

**WRITING CENTERS:**

It is recommended that students avail themselves to the RGC writing centers located at each campus site. Writing center personnel can assist students with guidance in literary composition and will provide insight into efficient and effective writing skills. It is highly recommended that these facilities and faculty be used to enhance your writing assignment in this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES: Semester Writing Assignment**

In compliance with the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) mandated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), students are required to participate in writing assignments.

**This assignment is not optional – it is required.** The purpose of this paper is to provide the instructor with a means of assessment for student writing skills. Each student will be expected to write a research paper relevant to the subject-matter content of the course.

Each paper will be assessed premised upon scholarly achievement (critical thinking, creativity, and research) and composition (grammar, spelling, mechanics, and documentation). Grade assignment will be conducted in accordance with the Analytical Writing Rubric provided.

**The research paper must include the following:**

- A title page. (Page 1) Title of the document, course title & number, instructor’s name, semester and date.
- An abstract. (Page 2) No more than 100 words.
- A body. (Pages 3 – 18) The subject-matter content.
- Reference pages. (Pages 19 - 20) No less than ten outside resources must be cited as references. Some textbook cases (from the chapter chosen) must be cited as resources.
- The paper must be typed, double-spaced, using #12 font -- Times New Roman.
- APA documentation is required for in-text citations and references.

**All research papers must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

Research papers will be graded May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Grades will be reported to the Office of Admissions and Records no later than May 13, 2016.

**All research papers are to be submitted by email attachment to [fbyxbe@sulross.edu](mailto:fbyxbe@sulross.edu). This will provide evidence of the date and time submitted.**

**Late papers will not be accepted for any reason.**

This is a mandatory assignment. Failure to submit a research paper in this course will result in an “F” for the semester grade.

**Plagiarism, of any kind, will result in the grade of “F” for this course.**

From the textbook listed above, the student is to select one of the following chapters for their research topic.

- Chapter 1: The Exclusionary Rule
- Chapter 2: What Constitutes Probable Cause?
- Chapter 3: Stop and Frisk
- Chapter 4: When has a Seizure Occurred?
- Chapter 5: Arrest
- Chapter 6: Standards for the Use of Force
- Chapter 7: Search with a Warrant
- Chapter 8: The Knock and Announce Rule
- Chapter 9: Search Incident to Arrest
- Chapter 10: Consent Searches
- Chapter 11: Plain View Searches
- Chapter 12: Open Fields Searches
- Chapter 13: Vehicle Searches
- Chapter 14: Regulatory Searches and Exigent Circumstances
- Chapter 15: Electronic Surveillance
- Chapter 16: Pretrial Identification procedures
- Chapter 17: Right to Counsel
- Chapter 18: The Development and Scope of the Miranda Warnings
- Chapter 19: What Constitutes Interrogation?
- Chapter 20: Civil Liability

Grading procedure and scale: This research paper will be graded according to the **Analytical Writing Rubric** provided.

- A = Excellent. A perfect paper, no mistakes found.
- B = Good. One or more, but less than 10 mistakes
- C = Competent. More than 10, but less than 20 mistakes
- D = Poor. More than 20, but less than 30 mistakes
- F = Unacceptable paper.

The above scale pertains to the mechanics of the paper – grammar, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure, number of pages, page layout, and precise composition. This paper will also be assessed on the quality of research materials used in support of the topic selected by the student. Also, how well the topic is presented in composition – is it interesting, informative, and captivating.

Students have the entire semester (15 weeks) to complete this assignment. Do not waste time and do not plagiarize this research paper.

### **SEMESTER CALENDAR**

Classes begins: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Spring Break: March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Last day to drop courses with the grade of “W” in Admissions Office 4:00 PM April 8, 2016

Last class day: Wednesday, May 4, 2016.