

Sul Ross State University  
Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice  
**CJ #4302 W03 Police Use of Force**  
Fall 2016 Web-delivered Course

Instructor: Russell Scown  
Office: MAB 109A  
Phone: 432-837-8166 (CJ Office)  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Email: [rscown@sulross.edu](mailto:rscown@sulross.edu)

Course Description:

This course will explore use of force by police officers as well as civilians, including the various use of force options and the legal justifications for the use of force.

Upon completion of this course students will be able to understand and evaluate use of force and the legal justifications for the use of force by law enforcement officers, as well as by civilians. Students will be able to understand and identify police strategies. Students will be able to identify and compare training procedures. Students will be able to identify force tools and control techniques and compare and critique the evolution of these tools and techniques. Students will be able to describe and explain controversies surrounding the use of force and apply critical thinking in efforts to reduce or eliminate the controversies.

**Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

UG-CJ-SLO1: Student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of specific areas of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to specific legal liabilities.

UG-CJ-SLO2: Student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of criminological theories, and apply those theories to an analysis of practical criminal justice events.

UG-CJ-SLO3: Student will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the specific language of the Criminal Justice System, ability to identify the individual parts and costs associated with the Criminal Justice System, and demonstrated knowledge in recognizing the political influences on the CJ system.

**Required Text:**

**Johnston, Coy (2016) *Force in Law Enforcement, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*. Cognella, Inc.  
ISBN 13: 978-1-62661-871**

*Distance Education Statement:* Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online

assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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.

#### Requirements – Students will:

This is a Blackboard class and students will be expected to participate frequently with class discussions and complete all assignments in a timely manner. Students are responsible for logging into the class frequently to ensure full participation in class. Any technical problems experienced that hinders a student from logging in should be reported to me promptly so that the problem can be fixed, assignments completed and proper credit given. If you are having any problems, please email me right away or contact me at the CJ office.

#### Grading:

Final Grades in this course will consist of student's performance on Discussion Questions, Tests, Assignments, and current events summaries.

All tests must be completed on time as there will be no make-up exams given. The Tentative Course Schedule provides the dates for these exams. The final exam will be available only during final s week and will cover the last three chapters only.

#### Discussion Questions:

Students will be expected to log in frequently, possibly several times each week, to actively participate in class discussions. Participation will involve responding to each discussion question as well as responding to information posted by other students. Students are required to participate and are expected contribute considerably to discussion boards. Students will need to draw on their own personal experiences, knowledge gained from reading the textbook, prior coursework, and any other source that would make a positive contribution to discussions. Each week there will be 1-2 discussion questions posted on Blackboard. The Assignment section will provide students with the guidelines for discussion content. All responses for discussion shall remain professional and courteous at all times.

#### Current Events Summary:

As this class will demonstrate, criminal procedure is continuously met with court challenges, changes, modifications and news-worthy incidents covered by news media. Students will be required to select one current event related to criminal procedure, summarize the event and main points associated with it, and post the summary to the discussion board. Each student will be required to comments on at least two of these posts.

Plagiarism:

Integrity is essential in the criminal justice field. Each student is expected and required to do their own work. Any cheating or plagiarism on any assignments in this class will result in a grade of "F".

*Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691.*

## Fall 2016 Course Schedule

### POLICE USE OF FORCE

- Aug 22 – Aug 26** Course Introduction (Introduction to assignments and Blackboard, begin reading chapters) Read Chapter 1 - A Brief History. This chapter will provide an overview of the history of police use of force. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 1.
- Aug 29 – Sep 2** Read Chapter 2 – Citizen Use of Force. This chapter will concentrate on use of force by civilians and legal justification for that use. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 2.
- Sep 5** **Labor Day (no classes)**
- Sep 6 – Sep 9** Read Chapter 3- Police Use of Force. This chapter covers the topic of use of force by police officers and legal justification for that use. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 3.
- Sep 12 – Sep 16** Read Chapter 4- Use of Force Options. This chapter deals with Use of Force continuums and options in using force by police officers. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 4.
- Sep 19 – Sep 23** Read Chapter 5- Force Situations. This chapter covers various situations encountered by police officers that could lead officers to use force. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 5.
- Sep 26 – Sep 30** Test 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) Read Chapter 6- Lethal Force I. This chapter covers the topic of lethal force prior to the decision in *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985). Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 6.
- Oct 3 – Oct 7** Read Chapter 7- Lethal Force II. This chapter covers the topic of lethal force after the decision in *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985) and the resulting effects on police. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 7.
- Oct 10 – Oct 14** Read Chapter 8- Training. Chapter 8 gets us into the training of police officers including ethical concerns. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 8.
- Oct 17 – Oct 21** Test 2 (Chapters 6, 7, and 8) Read Chapter 9- Rules of Law: Stop and Frisk. This chapter covers court decisions regarding the ability of police officers to stop and frisk persons. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 9.
- Oct 24 – Oct 28** Read Chapter 10- Rules of Law: Arrests. This chapter covers the topic of arrests and court decisions that give that authority to police officers. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 10.
- Oct 31 – Nov 4** Read Chapter 11- Rules of Law: Miscellaneous. This chapter covers miscellaneous court decisions regarding a variety of issues including searches, probable cause, identifications and checkpoint or roadblocks. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 11.
- Nov 7 – Nov 11** Test 3 (Chapters 9, 10, and 11) This assignment covers two (2) chapters. Read Chapter 12- Reporting Use of Force. This chapter covers the topic of reporting and documenting police use of force incidents. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 12. Read Chapter 13 – Controlling Use of Force. This chapter

involves the issue of controlling the use of force by police officers including the selection process for new recruits as well as improved use of technology.  
Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 13.

**Nov 14 – Nov 18** Read Chapter 14- A Final Word from COPS and IACP. This chapter will review a report from the International Associations of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) regarding emerging issues in police use of force. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 14.

**Nov 21 – Nov 25** **THANKSGIVING BREAK (No class discussions)**

**Nov 28 – Nov 30** Read Chapter 15- Use of Force Scenarios. This final chapter involves various scenarios presented involving use of force situations and appropriate responses to those incidents. Accomplish the Discussion Assignment 15.

**(Last class Day Wednesday, Nov. 30)**

**Dec 2 -- 7** FINAL Test 4 (Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15)

**Dec 9 (Friday)** **Fall Commencement, Pete P. Gallego Center, 7 p.m.**