

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CJ-5328 – Transnational Crime**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Rubin  
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 and 2:00 – 3:00  
and By Appointment

**Required Texts:**

Banks, C. & J. Baker. (2016). Comparative, International, and Global Justice: Perspectives from Criminology and Criminal Justice. Los Angeles: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1-4833-3238-3.

**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 Graduate Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

**CJ SLO 1:** : The student will be able to identify, assess, and compare policy processes and outcomes in criminal justice and various legal challenges to laws and policies within criminal justice.

**CJ SLO 2:** The student will be able to identify and apply criminological theories and competing theory arguments.

**CJ SLO 3:** The student will be able to develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research, including the ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology and develop the ability to apply research to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security policy.

**HS SLO 1:** The student will be able to identify, assess, and evaluate legal challenges to the laws and policies of the homeland security domain.

**HS SLO 2:** The student will be able to assess, evaluate, and develop appropriate policies that affect the overall operation and effectiveness of the homeland security domain.

**HS SLO 3:** The student will be able to develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research, including the ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology and develop the ability to apply research to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security policy.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of criminal organizations and their crimes on the global stage. Focus is particularly on those organizations and crimes that cross international boundaries. Areas of study include organized crime, trafficking in drugs, humans and weapons, piracy, and other crimes groups and individual criminals. Global efforts and prevention, interdiction and punishment will also be covered. A particular focus will be on placing these issues in the context of Homeland Security and the war on terror.

**Platform:** 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.

**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.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

This is a master's level course so everyone should know not to engage in these practices.

Students are expected to do their own work on all papers. Cheating and plagiarism on 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). Plagiarism includes improper use of citations in the research paper, copying from sources without citations, copying without quotation marks, etc.

### **Important!**

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

**Standard Work Week: For the purposes of this course, the work week begins on Monday morning at 6:00AM and ends on Saturday evening at 11:59PM, Central Time. Sunday will be a day for each of us to relax.**

### **Grading:**

Discussion Questions (25 @ 4% each)            100%

### **Requirements:**

**Discussion Questions:** The ONLY method of student evaluation in this class will be discussion forums.

It is my opinion that discussion forums are a place for students to learn from each other. As a graduate class, you will rely more heavily on each other to foster learning. That being said, while I read EVERY post in the discussion forums, I rarely interject myself into the discussions; I rarely respond to individual posts (but when I do, I expect a direct response). I share my viewpoints in Announcements to the class. If you wish to discuss a particular issue, please let me know and I will respond accordingly.

Since discussion forums are the primary place of learning in an online class, students will need to log frequently in order to deal with discussion forums 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, if not daily. **The professor will review all initial posts and responses, but may or may not respond to individual students. If I ask you a follow-up question, a response is required within 2 days.**

Students will be presented with two discussion questions related to the chapter readings for the week. Discussion questions will become visible each Monday at 12:00MIDNIGHT. Students are expected to post their initial response to the discussion thread **NO LATER THAN Thursday at 11:59PM Central Time** of each week. Late initial posts will have a 20% deduction. Your initial post must be AT LEAST 300 words in length (*yes, I count*). Furthermore, again, as a graduate level class, I expect significant outside research. I am not assigning a research project nor formal exams for this class, so I will place a greater emphasis on independent research. You **MUST** include AT LEAST 3 sources (your book plus 2 journal or reputable news articles) in each initial discussion post.

Students must post their initial discussion thread before they can reply to other students. Thereafter, students must respond to AT LEAST two of their classmates (*after all, these are DISCUSSIONS*) **NO LATER THAN 11:59PM on Saturday** of each week a discussion question is due. Responses must be presented as critical comments of a substantive nature. Responses that simply state a student's agreement with the initial post will not be accepted; your response must contribute to the learning process. Responses must be civil in tone and not derogatory towards the initial poster's opinion. This is a forum for learning and, while differences of opinion are permitted, respect for opposing opinions must be accompanied by mutual respect. **The discussion question will close on Sunday at 11:59PM.** Responses made on Sunday will have a 10% deduction. Your responses should be AT LEAST 100 words in length (*again, yes, I count*).

Weekly forums will close Sunday at 11:59PM, and the next week's forums will appear.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1 (Monday, August 22): Introduction**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-00 & DQ-01

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 1

#### **Week 2 (Monday, August 29): Comparing Crime Across Countries**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-02 & DQ-03

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 2

#### **Week 3 Monday, (September 7): Systems of Law**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-04 & DQ-05

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 3

#### **Week 4 (Monday, September 12): Policing**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-06 & DQ-07

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 4

**Week 5 (Monday, September 19): Courts and Criminal Procedures**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-08

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 5

**Week 6 (Monday, September 26): Punishment**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-09 & DQ-10

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 6

**Week 7 (Monday, October 3): Juvenile Justice**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-11

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 7

**Week 8 (Monday, October 10): Forgiveness and Impunity**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-12 & DQ-13

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 8

**Week 9 (Monday, October 17): International Criminal Court**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-14 & DQ-15

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 9

**Week 10 (Monday, October 24): Aspects of Transnational Crime**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-16 & DQ-17

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 10

**Week 11 (Monday, October 31): Human Trafficking**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-18 & DQ-19

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 11

**Week 12 (Monday, November 7): Terrorism**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-20 & DQ-21

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 12

**Week 13 (Monday, November 14): Violence Against Women**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-22 & DQ-23

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 13

**Week 14 (Monday, November 21): Thanksgiving Week – NO WORK THIS WEEK**

**(I'm almost sure the Pilgrims took more than one day off...if not, we will take a few days off for them.)**

**Week 15 (Monday, November 28): Human Rights**

**Discussion Questions:** DQ-24 & DQ-25

**Assigned Reading:** Chapter 14