

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CJ 1307: Crime In America
Spring, 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Rubin
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Required Texts:

Roth, Mitchell (2013) *Crime and Punishment: A History of the Criminal Justice System 2nd Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0495809883

****Note**:** This book is available in both print and e-book versions. The e-book is available on Amazon.com.

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 Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

SLO 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.

SLO 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.

SLO 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.

Course Description:

This course will explore American crime problems in a historical perspective, including the history of crime and punishment in the United States, social and public policy factors affecting crime, the impact of crime and trends on society, social characteristics of specific crimes, and prevention of crimes.

Cheating and Plagiarism

This is an upper level undergraduate course so everyone should know not to engage in these practices.

Students are expected to do their own work on all assignments and exams. 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.

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.

Students will be expected to be self-motivated, and work independently. 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.

Students with a Disability

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. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu .

!!!!!!!Important!!!!!!!

Contact Dr. Rubin sooner rather than later if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance.

Grading:

Discussion Questions (10 @ 4% each)	40%
Exams (3 @ 20% each)	60%

Course Requirements:

Discussion Questions: Students will be presented with a discussion question related to the chapter readings and related lecture notes for the week. Discussion questions will become visible each Monday at 6:00AM, as noted in the course schedule. Students are expected to post their response to the discussion thread NO LATER THAN Friday at 11:59PM Central Time of each week*. The discussion question will close on Saturday at 11:59PM. Posts made on Saturday will have a 20% deduction. Your post should be AT LEAST 250 words in length (*yes, I count*).

**Except for discussion question 1 (See course schedule).*

Exams: Three exams will be given as noted in the course schedule to verify student's knowledge of key issues as presented in class and in the textbook. Exams will be timed (2 hours) and approximately 50 questions in length. Exam questions will be presented in multiple choice format. ***If there is an issue while taking any exam, you must CALL Dr.***

Rubin to have the exam reset; NO e-mails for exam resets will be accepted. It is YOUR responsibility to know when exams open and close. NO make-up exams will be allowed.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (18 January): From Customs to Codes

Class will meet Wednesday, and Friday this week

Assigned Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2 (23 January): English Criminal Justice Traditions

Discussion question (DQ-01) due in BlackBoard on Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 2

Week 3 (30 January): Early America

Discussion question (DQ-02) due in BlackBoard on Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 3

Week 4 (6 February): Revolutionary Times

Exam 1 (Covers chapters 1 – 4) will open in BlackBoard on Wednesday and is due Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5 (13 February): New Nation

Discussion question (DQ-03) due in BlackBoard on Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 5

Week 6 (20): Antebellum America

Discussion question (DQ-04) due in BlackBoard on Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 6

Week 7 (27 February): Civil War

Discussion question (DQ-05) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapter 7

Week 8 (6 March): Victorian Times

Discussion question (DQ-06) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapters 8

Week 9: SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (20 March): Progressive Era

Exam 2 (Covers chapters 5 - 9) will open in BlackBoard on Wednesday and is due Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 9

Week 11 (27 March): Crisis Decades

Discussion question (DQ-07) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapter 10

Week 12 (3 April): Mid-20th Century

Discussion question (DQ-08) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapter 11

Week 13 (10 April): The Counter Culture Era

Discussion question (DQ-09) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapter 12

Week 14 (17 April): The Reagan Years and Beyond

Discussion question (DQ-10) due in BlackBoard on Friday

Assigned Reading: Chapter 13

Week 15 (24 April): The Age of Terrorism

Exam 2 (Chapters 10 – 14 will open in BlackBoard on Wednesday and is due Friday.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 14