

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

**FUNDAMENTALS OF LAW
CJ-2321**

SPRING SEMESTER
01-17-2017 – 05-04-2017
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday
TIME: 2:00pm to 3:15 pm

LOCATION: Morelock Academic Bldg., Room 205, Alpine Campus

Required Textbook: Criminal Law and Procedure, John L. Worrall and Jennifer L. Moore
Pearson Publishing ISBN -13: 978-0-13-237577-1

Recommended but not required: Black's Law Dictionary, Pocket Version, or Any College Edition Dictionary

Instructor:
Dr. Hamin Shabazz
E-mail: hxs16sb@sulross.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: MAB 203, Alpine Campus
Phone: 432-837-8134

Course Description: This course provides an overview of criminal law and the fundamental elements of criminal procedures including methods and rules police of police investigations and arrest, adjudication, sentencing, and appellate review by higher courts.

Prerequisite: CJ 1301 with a minimum US grade of C or better.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify the steps a criminal case takes as it progresses through the court system.
- Describe the relationship between criminal law, criminal procedure and the guarantees of the United States Constitution.
- Read, analyze and brief selected Supreme Court cases.
- Describe all procedural aspects of a criminal trial and sentencing criteria.
- Identify the major criminal laws.
- Explain the arrest process and custodial interrogations.

Teaching Philosophy/Student Responsibility

Instructor led discussions of assigned readings and topics are a fundamental and highly important focus of this course. Therefore, it is expected that students will be prepared to freely engage in discussions because they have kept current with the assigned readings. **Do not expect to cover every detail of the book in class. The textbook is for you to study and read.** Students are responsible for reading all of the assigned readings from the textbook and will be held accountable for its content for exam purposes whether or not we discuss it in class. Supplemental readings will be provided during the semester to enhance the student's knowledge beyond the textbook. Content from these supplemental readings may also be tested.

I will open each class asking if any student has a question about the reading assignment due for that class session. I will assume that there is a general understanding of the course material if there is no response – meaning that the student has read the required material and has a general understanding of the topic(s).

I will proceed with a review of selected topics in each assigned chapter in a dialogue with the members of the class. Students should be expected to be called upon to discuss a specific concept or answer a question posed by me. Any and all questions from the student are welcomed as long as they pertain to the topic being discussed. However, I will not spend time answering a question when it is obvious that the questioner has not read the required material for the class session.

Current local and national newsworthy topics dealing with court related issues involving criminal law and criminal procedure matters may also be a part of my lectures. Students are encouraged to bring in current news articles that correspond to the topic to further stimulate class discussion. Students should familiarize themselves with the meanings of the "Key Terms" listed in all modules under Chapter Review.

Real world issues which are sometimes matters of controversy in the criminal justice arena will be discussed in this class. Be mindful of this and respect the opinions of others although you may disagree with their opinion. The goal is to have civil discussions on such matters.

Attendance

The Department of Criminal Justice feels very strongly that class attendance is a direct predictor of student classroom success. Therefore, the faculty of the CJ department as a group will enforce the following student attendance policy. This policy does not supersede the SRSU policy on student attendance; it simply reinforces those stated goals. Criminal justice faculty will take class attendance. In accordance with current SRSU policy, when a student misses a total of 9 hours of class, the presumption is that the student will be dropped from that class with an "F". Students who violate the SRSU attendance policy may also find that they are ineligible for any extra credit or any discretionary grading curve applied to any or all exams for that course/semester. It should also be noted that it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor prior to any University event that would cause an absence. Failure of the student to inform the instructor will result in that absence being recorded as unexcused. Attendance is important! Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility and a serious attitude toward education. Additionally, instructors seldom teach only from the book. Missing a class (even an excused absence) will put you at a disadvantage for all of the materials covered when you were absent such as films, presentations, and guest lectures which cannot be made up.

Attendance will be taken daily and absences cannot be made up. Students should be in class on time and should be prepared to stay for the entire class period. Students who are late will not be counted as attending if attendance has already been taken.

Each student is responsible for his or her own class attendance. Regular attendance is expected. An attendance sheet will be handed out each class session. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. I will consider you to be absent from class if you fail to sign the attendance sheet. Any student that leaves class prior to its conclusion without providing me prior notice will be counted as absent.

Every student is responsible for the material covered or the skills exercised during the scheduled classes. Grades will be based on demonstrated achievement of the objectives. Students should be aware that grades may depend on in class activities, discussions, or quizzes, for which consistent attendance is necessary. **I suggest that you partner up with a classmate to get any information or assignment that you may have missed due to an absence from class.**

Student athletes should submit the required notice informing me of absence due to participation in a scheduled event. Missing class to participate in an activity of another class is a matter of choice and one that I do not consider a valid excuse for missing my class. **Do not ask me if it is okay to miss a class. That is a decision that you make based on your own personal need and circumstance.**

I will not inquire about your absence if you miss class. I will not ask you to submit a documented excuse for missing class. This is solely your responsibility to provide me with the information.

Each class period is 75 minutes in duration. Students are expected to be on time and be seated and ready to begin class at the designated start time. Any student that is late bears the risk of not being admitted to class. I will consider any student that is late more than THREE (3) times to be a disruption to the class. In addition to being asked to leave the class, FIVE (5) points will be deducted from your final grade.

Student Adjustment to the Course

Students must adjust to the course. Therefore, you must fit in whatever else you do such as work and extra-curricular activities to complete the work that is required for this course.

Written Assignments

Assignments are due according to the due date. Specifically, assignments with a due date are due at the beginning of class. **Any assignment submitted after the class has ended is late.** (This includes students that fail to take the time to print their assignments before coming to class and want to give it to me after class after printing it out. No exceptions – it will be recorded as late.)

If you are unable to attend class when an assignment is due, you should email the assignment and I should receive it with a time stamp within the first five minutes of class. If the time stamp is after the first five minutes of class, the assignment is late. A hard copy of the assignment must be submitted the next class to receive credit for the assignment if you email your assignment.

Penalty for Late Assignments

An assignment that is late on the first day due is penalized 5 points. An assignment that is two days late is penalized 10 points. An assignment will not be accepted if late more than two days. Your grade will be zero for that assignment.

Grade Disputes

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe I should review them, you must submit a written request over email to me that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted Within 72 hours (3 days) of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated.

Inclement Weather Policy

On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on the day an assignment is scheduled the assignment should be emailed to me. If the university is closed on a day that an exam is scheduled (except for the final) the exam will be available on Blackboard. Check your email if class is cancelled and an exam is scheduled. If a final exam is cancelled, I will follow university rules for rescheduling and notify you via email for the re-scheduling of the exam.

Class cancellation by Instructor

Rarely do I cancel class. However, if I do have to cancel class and you have not received advanced notice of the cancellation at the prior class session, I will generate and send an email. Follow the instructions provided on the email.

Assignments for this course

Homework Assignments – Review Questions (Each completed chapter has a point total of 14 points)

The assignments for the review questions are listed on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. **All questions** must be fully answered in order to receive credit (14 points) for these assignments. **There is no partial credit.** It is all or nothing. Questions must be answered in complete sentences. Refer to the format that I have provided to complete these assignments.

The questions are listed under Chapter Review (Review Questions) in each module.

Exams

There will be four (4) written examinations for this course. A midterm and final examination is included in this number. Each examination is valued at 100 points. The maximum total points that can be earned from exams for the semester towards your final grade are 400. Examinations may be a combination of multiple choices, matching, short answer (essay), true/false, and fill in the blank. Exam material will come from the textbook, class lectures, and handouts. There are no extra credit points on the exams.

My general policy regarding make-up exams is that I do not give make-up exams. Any deviation from this policy is case by case and the student must provide a documented valid excuse explaining the absence and attested by a third party. Examples of documented valid excuses that will be considered are those involving illness, family emergencies, and catastrophic incidents, all of which can be verified through documentation and directly affect the involved student. **If you miss a test without an acceptable documented valid excuse, you will receive a grade of Zero.**

Do not approach me with a verbal excuse for failing to take an exam. Follow the policy that is listed in this section.

Case Brief and Question Assignment – 90 Points

Information will be provided after the midterm.

Student Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: (Review full policy in Student Handbook)

To promote the free exchange of ideas, the Sul Ross State University community depends upon the academic honesty of all its members. Academic honesty applies to all situations, including but not limited to documenting all sources used in assignments, completing all tests without unauthorized assistance, and providing accurate information on University documents.

Violations of academic honesty and ethics include cheating, plagiarism, obtaining unauthorized assistance in the preparation of assignments, fabricating data or sources, presenting the same work for credit in more than one course without explicit permission of all interested instructors, or other unethical acts such as lying, stealing, physically abusing another person, or threatening another. Violators are subject to sanctions as specified in the *University's Policy on Academic Honesty*. A copy of the full policy is available in the *Student Handbook*.

Disability Services

See your instructor promptly if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance. Any student needing special assistance on any aspect of the class needs to see the instructor immediately. 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 Disability Services Coordinator, in Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-117, (837-8203).

General Class Rules:

- Students will be orderly at all times.
- No profanity or inappropriate language.
- Students will be respectful of each other, the instructor, and any guests.
- No wearing of baseball caps (similar types) in class.
- No use of audio devices/wearing of headphones.
- Turn off cell phones. No texting or use of cell phones during class.
- No audio taping of class lectures unless for ADA accommodation which is documented.
- No use of laptop computer unless for ADA accommodation which is documented.
- No food or beverage in the classroom.

STUDENTS THAT DO NOT CONFORM TO THE RULES WILL BE ASKED TO COMPLY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING ASKED TO LEAVE THE CLASS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST TO LEAVE THE CLASS IS A STUDENT DISRUPTION WHICH BECOMES A MATTER FOR SECURITY AND POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS.

Professionalism

You have chosen to pursue a curriculum in which rules are many and strictly enforced to maintain order and discipline in the workplace and protect the rights of citizens. Think of yourself as preparing to work in a criminal justice agency while a student in this class. You are expected to handle yourselves professionally during class, as you would as an employee in a criminal justice agency attending a professional academy for on the job training.

Inasmuch, professionalism includes being prepared for class (e.g., reading the required material), arriving to class on time, and being engaged and active participants in the classroom experience. It is my intent to treat each student as an adult, and as such, I employ standards of professionalism that are highly consistent with the “real world.”

I intend to discuss controversial criminal justice/social issues in a frank and forthright manner because I believe they are very important. As professionals, each of you must direct comments or responses to the class and me in a professional manner. We must all respect the opinions of one another. I would also request that if you are offended by the comments of a fellow class member or myself that you come to me to discuss the problem with me personally. In many cases these instances can be used as valuable learning experiences and I will do my best to rectify any problems.

Consultation

Office hours are by appointment only. However, should you need to discuss a matter of personal importance pertaining to class, I encourage you to call me or email me so that a meeting time and location can be arranged.

Academic Policies

All students are encouraged to thoroughly read the academic policies of Sul Ross State University which are contained on the SRSU website.

Student Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based on four (4) exams, which includes a mid-term and a final examination, fifteen (15) homework assignments and a question and case brief assignment.

Exams (4) - 100 points each	400 points
Homework (15) 14 points each	210 points
Case Brief and Question Assignment	90 points
Total Points	700 points

<u>Grading Scale</u>		
<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Point Equivalent</u>
A	90-100	630-700
B	80-89	560-629
C	70-79	490-559
D	60-69	420-489
Less than 420 points = F		

I reserve the right to change/amend the syllabus with due notice to comply with the changes.

Dr. Hamin Shabazz
 Dean, College of Educational and Professional Studies
 Professor, Homeland Security and Criminal Justice
 Spring 2016

Acknowledgement Page

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and understand the
 (Signature goes here)
 contents of the course syllabus for CJ 2321 Fundamentals of Law Spring 2017.

_____ Date _____
 (Print your name here)