

Forensic Ballistics: Handguns

CJ 4320 (Spring 2017)

MAB 107

Tuesdays and Thursdays

11:00 – 12:15

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Robert J. Hunter

MAB 109D

Office Phone: 837-8166

Office Hours

Tuesday -- 9am – 11 am

Wednesday – 9am – 11am

Thursday -- 9am – 11am

Friday – By Appointment Only

Also by appointment: If you are unavailable during the above times, appointments can be made with me as to the exact time and date for a meeting. Email [rhunter@sulross.edu](mailto:rhunter@sulross.edu).

I. REQUIRED TEXT

Handbook of Firearms and Ballistics; Brian J. Heard

2nd Ed.; Wiley Press

ISBN: 978-0470694602

Gunshot Wounds

2nd Edition

Vincent J. M. DiMaio

CRC Press

ISBN: 9780849381638

Selected Articles on Library Reserve

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CLASS FORMAT

This is a University level class. This is an adult environment. Subjects and topics may include material that may be controversial in nature. Adult language, violence, politics, and deviant behavior may be present in videos and in material for this class. The class is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of Forensic Ballistics. Much of the material is very technical in nature. The course will consist of class lectures and considerable class discussions (you must read the assigned material before class). I will expect questions and interaction from the class. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Reading assignments are expected to be completed at the time of the class period. On occasion videos will be shown to enhance class material. My expectations for the quality of work will be high. Do not expect an "A" as a grade unless you put forth exceptional effort. You must take notes in this class!

Outdoor Activities: Dependent on Range availability.

Safety: This class requires the full attention of each student in regard to firearms safety. We will spend a good amount of time on the proper SAFE HANDLING of weapons systems. Any students who handle a firearm in an unsafe way or act in an unsafe way at the range, will be removed from the class with an "F." All students will be required to sign a safety understanding and liability waiver form.

Learning Objectives/Expectations and Goals: Students will be able to demonstrate specific knowledge in the identification of various weapons systems. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of firearm ballistics through the evaluation of various ballistic markers. Students will be able to compare and contrast various ballistic systems and identify specific traits of each. Students will be able to discuss the historical evolution of firearms development.

Exams: Exams will be given on the date noted in the course outline, (or adjusted as necessary with the pace of the class). Exams will consist solely of True/false and multiple choice questions. All information presented in class or as assigned reading will be subject to examination. There will be no make up exams except for individuals who have a legitimate excuse and who have made prior arrangements with the instructor. Individuals who are authorized a make-up exam will take an essay exam on the missed material. You must show an authorization slip from the instructor to take any makeup work. There will be no "incomplete" grades given unless there are significant circumstances and documented evidence of such circumstances. Assignments that are not turned in on time will not be accepted. You will need to provide your own "Scan-trons" for exams.

### III. ATTENDANCE

I will expect everyone to attend class (I will take role), you will be unable to pass this course if you don't show up and take notes, your grade will reflect your absence. Expect your grade to reflect the effort that you put into your work. Simply doing the minimum requirements for this course will result in a minimal grade. Only exceptional work will result in an exceptional grade. If you do the work, you will be rewarded. See attached attendance policy. Any authorized make up work must be approved by the instructor and a signed slip showing this authorization must be presented on "Makeup Day" before a makeup is allowed. All makeup work will be done only on "Makeup day" May 5th at 8:00 A.M., in room MAB 107. All makeup exams will be essay – No exceptions!

### IV. COURSE GRADING

The course grade will be based on, two (2) tests and a final Exam, Test 1 (20%) Test 2 (20%)

Comprehensive Final Exam (45%) Class participation 15% total of 100%

Grading will be as follows: A=100-90%, B=89.99-80%, C=79.99-70%, D=69.99-60%, F = below 60%

Department of Criminal Justice Policy on Student Absences

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 supercede the Sul Ross State University policy on student attendance; it simply reinforces those stated goals. Criminal Justice faculty will take class attendance. In accordance with current University policy (Catalog page 69-70), 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". Student's 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 recorded as unexcused. Attendance is important! Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility and a serious attitude toward education. Many times students' wish letters of recommendation from their instructors. Prospective employers or graduate programs are all interested in a student's class attendance record. Additionally, instructors seldom teach directly 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 film, presentations and guest lectures which cannot be made up.

Note: 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, Alpine, Texas 79832 (915-837-8203)

## Undergraduate Criminal Justice Student Learning Outcomes

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.

## ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

1. 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 .

Spring 2016 Class Dates

Forensic Ballistics (Tentative Outline)

Week 1

Jan 17

Basic Terminology

Week 2

Jan 24

Firearm types - historical

Week 3

Jan 31

Firearm types - modern

Week 4

Feb 7

:

Handguns early

Week 5

Feb 14

:

Review for Exam 1

Exam 1

Week 6

Feb 21

Handguns modern

Week 7

Feb 28

Handguns modern

Week 8

March 7



Handguns modern

Week 9

March 14

Spring Break

Week 10

March 21

Handgun Ammunition

Week 11

March 28

Terminal Ballistics

Week 12

April 4

Terminal Ballistics

Week 13

April 11

CSI

Week 14

April 18

CSI

Week 15

April 25

Review

Week 16

May 2

Exam 2

Week 17

May 9

Exam Week

## Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)

PLO 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.

PLO 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.

PLO 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