

## CJ 1301: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Sul Ross State University - Fall 2019

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**Class hours** : Monday - Wednesday - Friday / 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

**Office hours** : Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM and by appointment.

### Required Text(s)

Frank Schmalleger (2019) *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century*, 15<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Additional readings (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard.

Regarding scientific journal articles, Byrian Wildenthal Memorial Library of SRSU has an extensive database infrastructure. You can get detailed information and advising from libraries website <https://library.sulross.edu/#> Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of the University and reach the articles on the reading list.

*Syllabus is subject to updates and changes always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.*

### Course Description

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of criminal justice. More specifically, the course provides an introduction, overview of American Criminal Justice System and its subsystems: police, courts, juries, prosecutors, defense and correctional agencies, and the standards and methods used to respond to crime and criminal offenders.

### Course Learning Objectives

This course is designed to provide knowledge about various topics related to American Criminal Justice System. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

**LO 1** - Understand the fundamentals of criminal justice system for analyzing how society through police, courts and corrections responds the problem of crime.

**LO 2** - Examine and discuss the processes and underlying philosophies of the criminal law and punishment.

**LO 3** - Learn, examine and discuss the different social and individual theoretical approaches explaining crime. You will get information about the theories such as strain, subculture, differential association, social control, ethnic succession, and psychological theories.

**LO 4** - Discuss pros and cons of the American Criminal Justice System.

**LO 5** - Able to think critically on different parts of the criminal justice system, their current functions, and their interrelationships with each other.

**LO 6** - Develop competencies in analyzing criminal issues and promoting possible solutions for crime-related social problems.

**LO 7** - Describe the main goals of contemporary criminal sentencing. Understand traditional sentencing options and alternative sentences and their relationship to justice reinvestment strategies

**LO 8** - Compare the advantages and disadvantages of probation and parole. Compare and contrast the work of probation and parole officers.

**LO 9** - Discuss the history of drug abuse and of antidrug legislation in America. Explain the link between drugs and other social costs.

**LO 10** - Understand and able to think critically on different criminal justice systems around the world. Understand the effects of globalization on criminal activities. Explain different transnational threats such as cybercrime, organized crime, and terrorism.

### **General Classroom Policies**

Students are encouraged to attend the class, ask questions and express opinions; however, talking among students and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. You may bring beverages to class with you, but not food. Reading outside materials such as newspapers or other course work is not permitted during class time. Students should be prepared to engage in discussion over the assigned readings, and for possible pop quizzes. Electronic devices are never allowed to use in class in a way to distract the instructor and other students. Keep your mobile phone in silent mode, otherwise switch it off. Violation of this crucial principal will be penalized. There will be one general rule in class which applies to all situations. This is also called “golden rule”. TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED.

### **Grading**

There will be 2 major exams throughout the semester, with questions drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on the blackboard. These 2 exams will be worth 30% each. There will be

no makeup exams. Every two weeks there will be a quiz for the related chapters 30% of the total grade will be based on quizzes. Remaining 10% will be based on in-class presentation. Depending on the number of students enrolled the in-class presentation will be an individual presentation or a group presentation on course related selected topics.

<b>Midterm exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>In-Class Presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **In-Class Presentation**

The students are required to prepare and present an in-class presentation. You will prepare power point presentation and submit it to Blackboard before doing your presentation in class. Depending on the number of enrolment, the presentation will be an individual presentation or a group presentation. Presentations should be on course related selected topics. Group presentations will be divided subtopics of the selected topic, and each group member will present his/her subtopic. You will be given a detailed handout about the presentations in couple of weeks.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and papers. Cheating on tests 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).

### **Attendance**

The Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice feels very strongly that class attendance is a direct predictor of student classroom success. Therefore, the faculty of the HSCJ 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.

### **Student Support Services (SSS) and Blackboard Help Desk**

Sul Ross State University has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Student Support Services <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall, Room 105. For Blackboard help visit <https://www.sulross.edu/bb> or call 432-837-8523 (M-F 09:00 am - 06:00 pm). You can get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>

### **Americans with Disabilities Act As Amended (ADAAA)**

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](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) .

### Weekly Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings
1	August 26 - 30	Introduction of Syllabus and course requirements What is Criminal Justice System?	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 1
2	September 2 - 6	The Crime Picture.	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 2 <b>QUIZ-1</b>
3	September 9 - 13	The Search for Causes	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 3
4	September 16 - 20	Criminal Law	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 4 <b>QUIZ-2</b>
5	September 23 - 27	Policing: History and Structure	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 5
6	September 30 - October 4	Policing: Issues and Challenges	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 6 <b>QUIZ-3</b>
7	October 7 - 11	Policing: Legal Aspects	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 7
8	October 14 - 18	Policing: Issues and Challenges	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 8 <b>QUIZ-4</b>
9	October 21 - 25	<b>***Midterm Exam***</b> The Courts: Structure and Participants	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 9
10	October 28 - November 1	Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 10
11	November 4 - 8	Sentencing	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 11 <b>QUIZ-5</b>
12	November 11 - 15	Probation, Parole and Reentry	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 12
13	November 18 - 22	Prisons and Jails	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 13 <b>QUIZ-6</b>
14	November 25 November 27 - 29	Terrorism, Multinational Criminal Justice, and Global Issues <b>Thanksgiving Day Holiday</b>	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 17
15	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>  <b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b> <b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Terrorism, Multinational Criminal Justice, and Global Issues <b>Last class day before finals</b> <b>Dead Day</b> <b>Final Examinations</b>	Schmallegger, F. Chapter 17
16	<b>December 9-11</b>	<b>Final Examinations</b>	

#### End of Course Evaluations

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.