

CJ 4309: Senior Seminar
Sul Ross State University – Spring 2020

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Class hours : Tuesday - Thursday / 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM
Office hours : Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM and by appointment.

Required Texts:

- 1) American Psychological Association (October 2019), Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition-spiral>
- 2) 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 additional reading list.

Course Description:

This senior seminar course is the pinnacle of one's undergraduate education. This course provides a structure for seniors to bring closure to their undergraduate experience while preparing for the transition from the university to the workplace or further academic study. This course allows students majoring in Criminal Justice to analyze specific program related issues and problems using the knowledge and understanding gained by completing the required courses in the program and a significant number of the major courses. According to SRSU catalog, this course will focus on topics such as, professional ethics and professionalism, role of the private sector in criminal justice, opportunities for employment and graduate study, criminal justice data sources, history and future of discipline and current developments. The final exam for this course will be the CJ Senior Exam which must be passed to graduate.

Prerequisite: CJ 1301, 2305, and 4304.

Course Learning Objectives:

Time in the course will be devoted to three main goals.

- 1) Reading about and discussing selected Criminal Justice problems.
- 2) Understanding the methods and techniques that are used to produce and disseminate the information that shapes Criminal Justice issues (including scientific knowledge, policy recommendations, public communication, etc.)
- 3) Developing a plan for pursuing their selected career path based on the awareness of the variety of post-graduate choices available to them (for example, career search process, planning for graduate school, etc.)

Final Exam (100 points)

There will be a Final Exam in this class. The Final Exam will cover every relevant material covered in the course. No make-up test will be given, unless an uncontrollable emergency or illness arises (written proof required).

Final Paper (300 points):

The most important component of this seminar is the completion of original, independent, and publishable quality student paper. In the course we will discuss possible topics and format of the paper. Your goal is to write a quality paper that could explain an issue by clearly stating and answering a question. As noted in the schedule, the goal of the seminar is to approach this potentially daunting task in stages. You are responsible for planning ahead and staying on top of these deadlines in order to finish your final paper on time.

There will be 3 major steps in this assignment. First you will write an annotated bibliography (100 points), then the literature review (100 points) and finally the paper (100 points).

The final paper should;

- a) be 20 to 25 pages (not including cover page and list of references)
- b) be typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- c) include at least eight scholarly citations (not website articles, wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, etc.),
- d) be written according to APA formatting and citation style.

A plagiarism detection software (SafeAssign) is used in this course. SafeAssign will detect and report all instances of plagiarism including where the student copied and pasted directly from a source. Students will receive a grade of "0" in these instances, and possibly fail the course.

Attendance and Participation (20 points):

The format of this seminar is highly flexible. We will not meet regularly in the class. You will spend most of your time doing library research, reading resources for your paper and writing your final paper. We will have some class meetings where we will discuss specific Criminal Justice issues. Readings for these meetings will be posted on Blackboard. We will also have couple of guest lecturers who are professionals in Criminal Justice areas and they will talk about possible career opportunities. You are required to attend these class meetings. It should be noted that it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor prior to any University event that would cause an absence.

Grading:

Grading help students motivate and see their levels. It also helps professor see the students’ level whether they need help, on what subject. Yet, it is needed to make just decisions about the students’ learning situations. In this regard, your grades will be determined according to the following criteria:

1 Final Exam	: 100 points
1 Final Paper	: 300 points
Attendance	: 20 points
Total	: 420 points

The following grading scale will be applied for your Final grade:

- A** = 420 points – 378 points
- B** = 377 points – 336 points
- C** = 335 points – 294 points
- D** = 293 points – 252 points
- F** = 251 points and below

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).

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 also get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>.

Students with Special Needs - Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA):

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student’s responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Important Dates:

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| January 13 – 17 | Syllabus and course requirements |
| February 24 – 28 | Annotated Bibliography is due (100 points) |
| April 6 – 10 | Literature Review is due (100 points) |
| May 1, 4-6 | Final Exam (100 points) and Final Paper (100 points) |

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.

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