SUL ROSS STATE UNIVESRITY-RIO GRANDE COLLEGE
CASTRROVILLE * DEL RIO * EAGLE PASS * UVALDE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGAM
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: 4337 Introduction to Forensic Science

COURSE PERIOD: Online Web Course

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sergio Gonzalez

EMAIL: All correspondence should be made using Sul Ross State University email to sjg17iz@sulross.edu

BIOGRAPHY: January 1, 1999-Present: Court-At-Law Judge, Val Verde County.

August 2017 – Present: Adjunct Professor at Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

November 2, 1990-1998: General Practice of Law with Law Offices of Gonzalez, Gonzalez & Gonzalez, 313 Pecan Street, Del Rio, Texas. Criminal Felony & Misdemeanor, Juvenile, Divorce & Child Custody, Protective Orders, Child Protective Services, Probate, Guardianships & Civil Matters.

May 4, 1986: Juris Doctorate Degree, O.W. Coburn School of Law, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

August 14, 1981: Bachelor of Arts Degree, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas.

May 2, 1976: Del Rio High School Graduate, Del Rio, Texas.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION STUDY HOURS:
January 1, 1999-Present: 699.00 Total CLE; 105.75 Total Ethics, State Bar of Texas.

JUDICIAL JURISDICTION:
Misdemeanor Criminal; Protective Orders Juvenile Misdemeanor & Felonies; Contested & Uncontested Probate; Guardianships; Adult Protective Services DWI DRUG Specialty Court Divorces & Child Custody Civil Matters.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to forensic science, the purpose of this course is to familiarize the criminal justice student with recognition, examination, identification and interpretation of evidence and the modern crime laboratory. The nature of forensic evidence is emphasized along with the limitations that technology and knowledge impose on its individualization and class characterization.

TEXTBOOK:

This course will require MindTap for Forensic Science: Fundamentals & Investigations, 3rd Edition (2021 Cengage). It is important to note that MindTap is required. Do not be scammed by purchasing a used textbook without MindTap.

Purchase Options (pick one):

1. MindTap Access Only (eBook is included) – either of the following ISBNs will grant you access to online materials.

   Printed Access Code ISBN: 9781337392242
   Instant Access Code ISBN: 9781337392235

2. MindTap Access + Bound Book

   Printed Access Code Bundle ISBN: 9780357018118

To Access MindTap, visit the "MindTap Getting Started" Section within Blackboard. Follow the directions provided in the MindTap – Getting Started Training Video.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: Students enrolling in online web courses at Rio Grande College must be aware that such courses are not self-paced and require considerable vested time in order to meet requirements. Students should be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time to accomplish the requisites in this course. Each semester will require a student to devote approximately 12 hours per week to each web class – which equates to 3 hours of class time plus 9 hours of reading, research, writing and other course preparation.

COMPUTER LABS: Rio Grande College computer labs are open Monday – Thursday 8:00AM - 9:00PM and Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM. **RGC Computer labs are not open weekends.** However, students may avail themselves to the SWTJC computer labs with a valid ID. Online web students should have available a high-speed internet connection on a regular basis for off-campus course work, exams, assignments and research.

DISHONESTY: Academic cheating and plagiarism is not acceptable behavior. It violates university policy and human ethics. If a violation occurs the penalty will result in the grade of "F" for the semester.

EXAMINATIONS: Exams and assessments have been structured to mandate maximum participation in this course of study.

- There will be chapter quizzes, tests, and labs each week.
- Chapter reading assignments are of the upmost importance for student learning outcomes and assessment.
- Exams will consist of multi-formatted questions taken from weekly reading assignments.
- It is recommended that all exams be taken in the computer laboratory on the Rio Grande College campus. However, this is not required. Exams may be taken at any location using a high-speed internet connection.
- Weekly assignments will be made available on Mondays at 6:00 am and will be made unavailable on Sundays at 11:59 pm on Cengage, linked through Blackboard. See last page of syllabus for exam schedule and dates.
- Weekly assignments may be attempted a total of 3 times. Exams may not be copied, saved or returned to later. Exams must be completed in one setting.
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NO MAKE-UP EXAMS: If a student **for any reason:**

- fails to take an exam
- fails to complete an exam
- fails to submit an exam

will result in a failed exam.

The professor assumes no responsibility for student omissions or technology issues. No exams will be reset for any reason. There will be no make-up exams for any reason.

GRADING SCALE:

850 - 950 = A
750 - 849 = B
650 - 749 = C
580 - 649 = D
0 - 579 = F

SEMESTER GRADES: Final semester grades are reported to the Office of Admissions & Records at the conclusion of each semester and grades are posted on Banner for student review.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon reading assigned chapters in the textbook with a thorough analysis of the key concepts, terms, scientific principles and

investigative procedures within each chapter the student will acquire extensive knowledge of the following subject-matter materials to be inclusive on each examination. Course includes:

        - Analysis of GSR
        - Analysis of Wounds from Projectiles
        - Trajectory
    - Advances in Ballistic Analysis
    - Summary
    - Case Studies
    - Careers in Forensics. Gregory Klees
    - Chapter 18. Review Questions
    - Chapter 18: Bibliography
    - Activity 18-1. Bullet Trajectory
    - Activity 18-2. Firing Pin Analysis
    - Activity 18-3. Describing Spent Projectiles
    - Activity 18-4. How Good Is Your Aim?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO): The graduating student will

(SLO 1) Content Knowledge: Students will demonstrate proficiency in the application of legal concepts, theoretical applications, scientific principles, and historical trends in the criminal justice arena.

(SLO 2) Research Skills: Students will demonstrate competency in the application of basic research methods to include: research design, statistical analysis, and uses of empirical findings and interpretations.

(SLO 3) Critical Thinking Skills: Student will demonstrate the application of organizational principles, cultural, social and behavioral knowledge, critical thinking skills and cognitive thought processes within the criminal justice arena.

***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. *[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.]* 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.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Sul Ross State University – Rio Grande College 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 Kathy Biddick, Student Services 830-279-3003 or kbiddick@sulross.edu .