

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Criminal Investigation**  
**Spring 2023**  
**CJ 3312 Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Oguzhan Basibuyuk, Ph.D

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**Class hours:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00-11:50 AM

**Classroom:** MAB 107

**Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 1:00 PM and 3 PM

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

*Criminal Investigation* (any version from 4 to newest) Author: Steven G. Brandl. Sage Publication  
ISBN 9781506391410

<https://sulross.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/3667293/>

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

**SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [www.library.sulross.edu](http://www.library.sulross.edu) . Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu) ), or phone (432-837-8123).

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 steps of criminal investigation. More specifically, the course provides information about the definition, history, and types of criminal investigation process. Role of documentation, definition and types of evidences, the laws related to criminal investigations. Students will also get information about evidence collection from crime scene, role of interrogations and confessions in criminal investigations. Moreover, investigation methods for certain crimes such as, cybercrimes, frauds, homicides, sex crimes, robbery, burglary will be covered during the course.

**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:

**LO1-** Define the criminal investigation process, criminal evidence, and forensic science

**LO2-** Explain the role of criminal investigations in the criminal justice process.

**LO3-** Define the basic distinctions of criminal evidence, including the distinctions between judicial evidence and extrajudicial evidence and those between exculpatory evidence and inculpatory evidence.

**LO4-** Explain the various types of evidence, including direct, circumstantial, testimonial, real, documentary, and demonstrative

**LO5-** Discuss the three roles or functions of physical evidence in the criminal investigation process and define class characteristic and individual characteristic forensic evidence.

**LO6-** Discuss other types of forensic evidence, including fingerprints, bite marks, shoeprints, firearms, and drugs.

**LO7-** Identify how criminal profiles are constructed, explain the meaning of various perpetrator actions, and discuss the effectiveness of criminal profiles

**LO8-** Identify and evaluate the legal, technical, and practical issues related to the collection and use of digital evidence in criminal investigations

**LO9-** Learn and understand the ways social media can be used by investigators

**LO10-** Understand and identify various methods for different types of offenses such as, cybercrimes, frauds, homicides, sex crimes, robbery, burglary

### **MARKETABLE SKILLS:**

This course is designed also to help the students for building various marketable skills to use in their in careers Criminal Justice related professions. Specifically, in this course, the following marketable skills, which are some of the most important skills for such careers, will be emphasized during this course:

**MS 1-** Verbal and Written Communication Skills

**MS 2-** Critical Thinking and Observation

**MS 3-** Multicultural Understanding.

**MS 4-** Accessing Resources with Crime Data and the most current updates of legal codes and procedures.

**MS 5-** Teamwork and Working Collaboratively

**MS 6-** Analyzing the Factors Contributing to Crime

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:**

Given that this is a fully online course; you cannot attend class in a traditional sense. However, students are expected to log into the class at the earliest opportunity to check the class web site every day for announcements. Weekly reaction papers and quizzes are a required part of class participation.

### **REACTION PAPERS (10 POINTS EACH)**

You will write a reaction paper every week. Each paper must be 1 page and 1.5-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. Reaction papers will be related to the reading of the week. When there is more than one reading assignment, then the students **SHOULD READ ALL REQUIRED READINGS BUT WRITE REACTION PAPER ON ONE OF THEM.** A reaction paper is not a summary; rather, it should include your perspective, ideas, and critique about the reading. The due dates for the reaction papers will be Sunday 11:00 pm each week.

### **WEEKLY QUIZZES (10 POINTS EACH)**

You will take a quiz for every week to measure the knowledge of the week's required readings. The questions will be posted Friday 1:00 pm and due date will be Sunday 11:00 pm every week.

### **MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS (100 POINTS EACH)**

There will be 2 major exams throughout the semester, with questions drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted by the professor. These 2 exams will be worth 100 points each. There will be no makeup exams.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct." Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found in the University website.

Sul Ross State University and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and

instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context.

Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, and falsifying academic records. In addition, academic dishonesty can include both actions and omissions to act in regards to academic exercises and activities. Cheating is defined here as the obtaining of information (electronic or otherwise) during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, notes, or other sources of information prior to or during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, the removal of faculty examination materials, the alteration of documents or records, or actions identifiable as occurring with the intent to defraud or use under false pretenses. Collusion is defined here as helping other students engage in acts of academic dishonesty, whether the student involved obtains any direct academic advantage from these acts. Plagiarism is defined here as the submission of the ideas, words, or artistic productions of another, without giving due credit or when attempting to falsely represent them as one's own.

#### **APA STYLE:**

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA a number of resources have been provided below. Please note that all external sources must be appropriately cited. A failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and is a violation the course academic honesty standards. See [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> for help with APA.

#### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES 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>

#### **DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

#### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the

conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.”

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### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AS AMENDED (ADAAA)**

SRSU Disability Services. 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 each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY:**

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university.

### **GRADING:**

There will be 1 midterm exam, 1 final exam, weekly quizzes and reaction papers throughout the semester. Questions for exams and quizzes will be drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on Blackboard. The midterm exam and final exam will be worth 100 points each. There will be no makeup exam. Every week there will be a quiz for the related chapter(s). Each quiz will worth 10 points. The total grade will be 140 for all quizzes. Weekly reaction papers will be 10 points each. The total grade for papers will be 140.

<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Weekly Quizzes</b>	<b>140 pts (14 quizzes, 10 points each)</b>
<b>Reaction papers</b>	<b>140 pts (14 papers, 10 points each)</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>480 pts</b>

**Scale:**

**A 480-380 B 379-280 C 279-180 D 179-80 F 79 & below**

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

W	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	January 18-20	Introduction of the course and syllabus	
2	January 23-27	Introduction What is Criminal investigation?	Brandl, Chapters 1-2 Paper 1 Quiz 1
3	Jan.30-Feb.3	The Role and Documentation of Evidence in Criminal Investigations	Brandl, Chapter 3 Paper 2 Quiz 2
4	February 6-10	The Law and Criminal Investigations	Brandl, Chapter 4 Paper 3 Quiz 3
5	February 13-17	Physical Evidence and the Crime Scene	Brandl, Chapter 5 Paper 4 Quiz 4
6	February 20-24	Interviews and Eyewitness Identifications	Brandl, Chapter 6 Paper 5 Quiz 5
7	Feb. 27-Mar.3	Interrogations and Confessions	Brandl, Chapter 7 Paper 6 Quiz 6
8	March 6-10	Behavioral Evidence and Crime Analysis	Brandl, Chapters 8 Paper 7 Quiz 7
<b>9</b>	<b>March 13-17</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
10	<b>March 20-24</b>	Open Source intelligence and information gathering	Brandl, Chapters 9 Paper 8 Quiz 8
11	March 27-31	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> Death Investigation	Brandl, Chapter 10 Paper 9 Quiz 9
12	April 3-7	The Investigation of Sex Crimes, Assault, Child Abuse, and Related Offenses	Brandl, Chapter 11 Paper 10 Quiz 10
13	April 10-14	The Investigation of Robbery	Brandl, Chapter 12 Paper 11 Quiz 11
14	April 17-21	The Investigation of Burglary, Vehicle Theft, Arson, and Other Property Crimes	Brandl, Chapter 13 Paper 12 Quiz 12
15	April 24-28	The Investigation of Fraud and Other Computer-Related Crimes	Brandl, Chapter 14 Paper 13 Quiz 13

16	May 1-5	The Presentation of Evidence	Brandl, Chapter 15 Paper 14 Quiz 14
	<b>May 8-12</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>May 8-12</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.