



INTRO TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(2025_SPRG_21059_CJ_1301

001_Intro to Criminal Justice)

Type: Classroom

Building: Morelock Academic Room: 00107

Monday/Wednesday 09:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Start Date: 01/15/2025 **End Date:** 04/30/2025

Assistant Professor Ercan BALCIOGLU

Tel: (432) 837-8336

ercan.balcioglu@sulross.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday MORNING by appointment

Campus Office: MAB 109D

COURSE MATERIALS

The following course materials are required:

Peak, K. J., & Herold, T. D. (2023). Introduction to Criminal Justice (5th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc. (US).

American Psychological Association. (October 2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Retrieved from

<https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publicationmanual-7th-edition-spiral>

Additional resources, including supplementary readings, videos, and other materials, will be made available on Blackboard throughout the semester.

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

The Sul Ross Library provides free resources and services for the entire SRSU community, including books, articles, and online databases accessible at www.library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Librarians are available for assistance via email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), phone (432-837-8123), or in person.

Logging into your Sul Ross Blackboard account connects you directly to the library webpage, where you can explore online databases and access articles on the reading list.

Please note, the syllabus is subject to updates. Regularly check course announcements for changes. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the criminal justice system, emphasizing key decision points and administrative practices within policing, criminal courts, and correctional institutions. It examines the historical development of criminal justice agencies and explores foundational principles of criminal procedures.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the American Criminal Justice system, exploring its structure, processes, and contemporary issues. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the roles of police, courts, and corrections in addressing crime.

2. Examine the principles and philosophies underlying criminal law and punishment.
3. Evaluate social and individual crime theories, including strain, subculture, and psychological models.
4. Critique the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. Criminal Justice system.
5. Assess the functions and interconnections of system components.
6. Propose solutions to crime-related social challenges.
7. Explore sentencing goals, traditional and alternative approaches, and justice reinvestment strategies.
8. Compare probation and parole systems and their roles in rehabilitation.
9. Investigate the history and societal impact of drug abuse and legislation.
10. Analyze global criminal justice systems, globalization's effects on crime, and transnational threats like cybercrime and terrorism.

This course emphasizes critical thinking and practical application to address modern criminal justice challenges.

Classroom Policies

Students are encouraged to attend class, participate actively, ask questions, and share opinions respectfully. Disruptive behavior, side conversations, and unrelated activities (e.g., reading non-course materials) are prohibited. Beverages are permitted; however, food is not allowed. Students should come prepared to discuss assigned readings and may encounter pop quizzes. Electronic devices must not disrupt the class. Phones should be set to silent or turned off. The overarching rule is the "Golden Rule": Treat others as you wish to be treated.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Distance education students have full access to academic resources, including library services, online databases, and technology support. Visit the SRSU website for details. Students must use their Sul Ross email and submit assignments via Blackboard, which requires secure login. All students are expected to follow academic honesty and conduct policies outlined in the student handbook. Web-based course participants must maintain the necessary equipment and software as specified on the SRSU website. Instructions for filing complaints are also available in the student handbook.

Course Assessment

Attendance Policy (100 Points)

Attendance reflects maturity, responsibility, and commitment to learning. Regular and punctual attendance is essential. Attendance will be taken daily, and absences cannot be made up. Students should arrive on time and stay for the entire class. Latecomers must confirm their attendance with the instructor after class.

Per SRSU policy, students missing 9 hours of class (6 sessions) will be dropped with an “F.” Notify the instructor in advance of any University-related absence; failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

Attendance Grading:

- Full attendance: 20 points
- 1 missed class: 16 points
- 2 missed classes: 12 points
- 3 missed classes: 8 points
- 4 missed classes: 4 points
- 5 missed classes: 0 points
- **6 missed classes: Final grade = “F”**

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the Sul Ross Student Handbook. Both the university and the instructor prioritize academic integrity and strictly enforce institutional guidelines and course policies.

Students must exhibit scholarly behavior, including punctuality, preparedness, and meaningful participation. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to the following, will not be tolerated:

Submitting work used for another course or professor as original.

Presenting another’s work as one’s own.

Using professional works or online sources without proper citation.

Collaborating on assignments or exams when prohibited.

The use of AI sources is also prohibited unless explicitly permitted. Violations may lead to failing grades on assignments or the course, and further disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty undermines the value of higher education.

APA Style

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) Seventh Edition 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. Beside numerous online sources you can also visit the following link for help with APA

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

Student Support Services

Sul Ross State University offers various programs to help students succeed, including advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of services, visit Student Support Services. For more information, contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall, Room 105.

Counseling Services: Sul Ross students have access to nine free counseling sessions through TimelyCare. For 24/7 support, visit TimelyCare/SRSU. In-person counseling is also available in Ferguson Hall, Room 112 (Alpine campus), and via telehealth for remote and RGC students.

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 each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. The office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall # 112, and the mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SRSU, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

Students are expected to complete coursework on time and submit assignments by the specified deadlines. Late work is generally not accepted, as students are informed of deadlines at the beginning of the term. If an assignment or exam is missed, students must provide a valid, university-recognized excuse. It is the student's responsibility to plan accordingly and stay aware of deadlines by regularly reviewing the syllabus.

Departmental Bachelor's Degree Program Marketable Skills

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) sets statewide goals through the 60x30TX initiative. The THECB plan includes four major goals in 60x30TX: Educated Population, Completion, Marketable skills, and Student debt. The [60x30TX](#) plan was designed to tie together all four student-centered goals. 60x30, which measures the educated population in Texas, is the overarching goal at the center of the plan and calls for 60 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds in Texas to hold a credential or degree by 2030. The 60x30 goal is supported by the other three goals (completion, marketable skills, student debt) that will get Texas to 60 percent by 2030.

By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. Students who can effectively market their skills to potential employers can secure employment that pays competitively. Marketable skills include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas, are valued by employers, and are primary or complementary to a major. Marketable skills are acquired by students through education,

including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities. Marketable skills are often called “employability skills” in other countries, or “transferable skills” here in the states. They include both technical and soft skills.

The marketable skills of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice BS Programs are listed as follows:

1. Students Develop Verbal and Written Communication Skills.
2. Students Access Resources with Crime Data and Work with Numbers and Demonstrate Quantitative Skills.
3. Students Use Critical Thinking and Observation.
4. Students Use Teamwork and Work Collaboratively.
5. Students Develop Multicultural Understanding.
6. Students Analyze the Factors Contributing to Crime.
7. Students Know Legal Codes & Procedures and Safety.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Students are expected to respect their classmates' and instructors' privacy and the work or comments they produce. Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Supportive Statement

I am to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may 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 SRSU to create a supportive 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.

Grading

16 Quizzes	400 points
1 Midterm Exam	200 points
1 Final Exam	300 points

Attendance
Total

100 points
1000 points

<p>Final Grading Scale</p> <p>A 1000 - 901</p> <p>B 900 - 701</p> <p>C 700 - 501</p> <p>D 500 - 301</p> <p>F 300 & below</p>
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Quizzes: Every week, there will be a quiz posted for each Unit. Please submit your answers by Sunday night of each week. All responses must be submitted by midnight on Sundays

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Please check Blackboard regularly for any updates.

Modules	DATES	TOPIC(S)	READING
1	Jan 15-Jan 19	Welcome and Course Introduction & Requirements Fundamentals of Criminal Justice: Essential Themes and Practices 3	Course Syllabus (Blackboard) Chapter 1
2	Jan 20-Jan 26	Foundations of Law and Crime: Nature, Elements, and Measurement 25 20 Jan MLK jr. Day	Chapter 2
3	Jan 27-Feb 2	Chapter 3 Theories of Criminality and Crime 53	Chapter 3
4	Feb-3- Feb 9	Ethical Essentials: Doing Right When No One Is Watching 75	Chapter 4
5	Feb-10- Feb 16	Police Organization: Structure and Functions99	Chapter 5
6	Feb-17- Feb 23	Police at Work: Patrolling and Investigating125 Feb 17th Washington’s Birth Day	Chapter 6

7	Feb-24- Mar 2	Chapter 7 Policing Methods and Challenges: Issues of Force, Liability, and Technologies151	Chapter 7
8	Mar 3-Mar 9	Expounding the Constitution: Laws of Arrest, Search, and Seizure169 Court Organization: Structure, Functions, and the Trial Process 195 March 7th on Friday MIDTERM EXAM 1 Covers Chapters 1, 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9)	Chapter 8, 9
10	Mar 10-Mar 16	The Bench and the Bar: Those Who Judge, Prosecute, and Defend 225	Chapter 10
11	Mar 17-Mar 23	No Class (Spring Break)	
12	Mar 24-Mar 30	Court Methods and Challenges: Sentencing and Punishment 249 Chapter 12 Prisons and Jails: Structure and Function 281	Chapter 11, 12
13	Mar 31-April 6	The World Behind Bars: The “Keepers” and the “Kept” 307	Chapters 13
14	April 7- April 13	Corrections in the Community: Probation, Parole, and Other Alternatives to Incarceration 331	Chapter 14
15	April 14- April 20	Juvenile Justice: Philosophy, Law, and Practices361	Chapter 15
16	April 21- April 27	On the Crime Policy and Prevention Agenda: Immigration, Mass Murder, the Cyber Threat385 FINAL EXAM Covers all Chapters	Chapter 16

****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****