

Sul Ross State University
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Semester: Spring 2025
CJ 1301 Syllabus

Instructor: Mary G. Cienega

Campus Office: Alpine MAB-109

Telephone: 432-837-8166

E-mail: mgf14tv@sulross.edu, mgfcienega@yahoo.com

Class hours: Tuesday- Thursday 1:45-3:00

Classroom: Eagle Pass ISD

Office hours: By Appointment

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text for the 21st Century (any version from 10 to newest)

Author: Frank Schmalleger

<https://sulross.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/3667010/>

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. 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), 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 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:

LO1- Understand the fundamentals of criminal justice system for analyzing how society through police, courts and corrections responds the problem of crime

LO2- Examine and discuss the processes and underlying philosophies of the criminal law and punishment.

LO3- Learn, examine and discuss the different social and individual theoretical approaches explaining crime. The students will get information about the theories such as strain, subculture, differential association, social control, ethnic succession, and psychological theories.

LO4- Discuss pros and cons of the American System of Criminal Justice

LO5- Able to think critically on different parts of the criminal justice system, their current functions, and their interrelationships with each other.

LO6- Develop competencies in analyzing criminal issues and promoting possible solutions for crime-related social problems.

LO7- Describe the main goals of contemporary criminal sentencing. Understand traditional sentencing options and alternative sentences and their relationship to justice reinvestment strategies

LO8- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of probation and parole. Compare and contrast the work of probation and parole officers

LO9- Discuss the history of drug abuse and of antidrug legislation in America. Explain the link between drugs and other social costs

LO10- 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.

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. Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

MS 2- Critical Thinking and Observation. Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

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

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 35% each. There will be no makeup exams. Every two weeks there will be a quiz for the related chapters 20% 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.

Midterm exam	35%
Final exam	35%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance	10%
In-Class Presentation	10%
Total	100%

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

The students are required to prepare and present an in-class presentation. They will prepare power point presentation and submit it to Blackboard before doing their 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.

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).

IN-CLASS and ON-LINE ATTENDANCE:

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

SERVICE 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.

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>

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

W	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	January 17-18	Introduction What is Criminal Justice?	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 1
2	January 20-25	The Crime Picture.	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 2 QUIZ-1
3	Jan.27-Feb.1	Criminological Theories	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 3
4	February 3-	Criminal Law	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 4 QUIZ-2
5	February 10-15	Policing: Purpose and Organization	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 5
6	February 17-22	Policing: Legal Aspects	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 7 QUIZ-3
7	Feb. 24-Feb. 29	Policing: Issues and Challenges	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 8
8	March 3-8	The Courts, Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 9-10 QUIZ-4
9	March 10-15	MIDTERM EXAM Sentencing	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 11
10	March 17-21	SPRING BREAK	
11	March 24-29	Probation, Parole, and Reentry	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 12 QUIZ-5
12	Mar. 31 April 5	Prisons and Jails	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 13
13	April 7-12	Juvenile Justice	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 15 QUIZ-6
14	April 14-19	Drugs and Crime	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 16
15	April 21-26	Terrorism, Multinational Criminal Justice, and Global Issues	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 17 QUIZ-7
15	April 28-May 1	High-Technology Crimes	Schmalleger, F. Chapter 18
	May 2-7	FINAL EXAM	

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.