

Domestic Violence

SRSU 2025 Summer Session II Syllabus

Benjamin Barrientes, benjamin.barrientes@sulross.edu

Office in 109A Morelock Hall, Office hours by appointment (432) 837-8490, cell phone (432)299-8527

Course Description

The Domestic Violence course examines topics in Criminal Justice that focus on what Domestic Violence touches (that is incredibly, unashamedly considerable).

Our readings will be posted online and they address concepts, key issues, in order to develop an approach that can be described as “Observe, investigate, understand.” We will take a look at a series of legal cases, articles, and commentaries. We will take a closer look at foundational concepts that should enable students to articulate an understanding of contemporary issues in this ever-changing discipline of Criminal Justice.

What is reasonable is to think that Domestic Violence is a form of abuse of trust, power, and (one of our favorite abstractions) love. Does the word irony figure in all this? By delving into the contradictions of human emotions we might get a clearer picture into this human phenomenon. If you’re looking to pass judgment on unlawful behavior it is possible that you may not get enough out of this course. We need to ask if we can have a better society by addressing the ills that result from Domestic Violence? Are those ills subject to speculation? Are those ills dispositive as a causal connection into sustained problems (e.g. the problematic treatment of people in the LGBTQ community)? Do we investigate social tension provided by the quest for personal virtue tempered with an ideal of social justice?

Course objectives

Upon completion of the course students will be able:

To communicate about Domestic Violence in great detail by identifying a few universals (yes, that’s how we will identify the start) and then break down the particulars;

To think critically about the foundations of the Criminal Justice system and attitudes reflected in Domestic Violence Jurisprudence;

Appreciate and respect the views of their classmates;

Engage in ongoing learning by seeking knowledge that moves beyond expected boundaries (that is what is to be expected as you successfully pursue employment);

Student Learning Objectives

Articulate a working vocabulary of terminology that is specific to Domestic Violence discussions;

Evaluate a recent publication for its formal qualities;

Identify universals and particulars in expressing the dynamics of Domestic Violence.

Marketable skills:

Students will acquire strong oral and written communication skills;

Students will acquire strong analytical skills.

Students will acquire stronger advocacy skills.

FORMAT OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments must be typewritten using MLA format, in 12-point type.

Times New Roman or Ariel font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and free of errors. PLEASE PROOF YOUR WORK. You will be graded on both the content of your ideas and the clarity of your writing. Use the University's Writing Center prior to turning in your papers.

Texas Domain III Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies critical thinking knowledge and skills to plan, organize/implement instruction, and assess learning.

Texas Domain III Competency 23: The teacher understands and applies knowledge of core concepts of Criminal Justice including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through distinct and unique systems and approaches for thought.

Americans with Disability Act Statement: In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. Contact Mary Schwartz's Office (112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

Classroom Policies: Due to the nature of an online class, participation is expected of each student through your communication with the instructor. In an employment situation, you are required (expected) to communicate with your immediate supervisor. If you establish communication with your Professor then you will benefit from a valuable element in human nature, “respect.”

Sul Ross State University has a zero tolerance policy on cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are addressed in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

Students are expected to read the selected assignments. The University is a place where we exchange ideas and points of view on a variety of issues. We must ensure that we feel comfortable and safe by trusting our atmosphere in order to express our point of view with clarity, precision, and measured language.

In an online course, communication between teacher and student is vital. I will respond to your communication(s); I expect for you to respond to mine...

Course Requirements:

There will be a Midterm Exam;

The Final Exam will be comprehensive.

There will be weekly written assignments based on questions that focus on readings that are the main topic(s).

Grading system: A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59 or less

All assignments must be submitted by email by the due date. I will not accept late work (unless we have communicated and have reached a clear understanding).

Weekly papers due each Friday (40%)

Writing a paper responding to a series of questions based on readings assigned for that week

Midterm Exam (30%) Date TBD on 3rd week

Final Exam (30%) August 13, 2025

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Virtually non-existent scholarship.

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

SRSU Disability Services. 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 (please leave a message and she'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. The office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and the mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832 Technical Support. SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu SRSU Library Services.

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, 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). The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus Classroom. The Resource Librarian on whatever campus you're on is a woefully lonely individual (that needs to change).

Although this is an online course, 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. As a matter of note, we occupy a world in which people wish to dominate (Friedrich Nietzsche believed that the will to power was overwhelming). Let us try to achieve an ideal of a Great Society by showing respect for others; if there is a controversy then we can talk ...