

SYLLABUS- 2025 FALL 12378 CJ 4304

W01 CRIMINOLOGY

**Start Date**: 08/25/2025 End Date: 12/10/2025

Type: Online Class Hours: Online

**Assistant Professor Ercan BALCIOGLU** 

Tel: (432) 837-8336

ercan.balcioglu@sulross.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday MORNING by appointment

Campus Office: MAB 109D

**Contacting Me:** The best way to reach me is via email. Do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I will respond to email inquiries as soon as possible.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The following course materials are required:

Schram, Pamela J.; Schwartz, Joseph A., and Tibbetts, Stephen G. (2025) Introduction to Criminology: Why Do They Do It?, Fourth Edition, Vantage Learning Platform of SAGE Publications Inc, ISBN: 9781071914519.

American Psychological Association (October 2019), Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition, https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publicationmanual-7th-edition-spiral . Additional material (e.g. extra readings, videos, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce you to the field of criminology. More specifically, the course provides an overview of criminological theories that attempt to define what is crime and why it occurs. Throughout the course, we will examine individual, sociological, psychological, and biological definitions of criminal behavior, American criminal justice system, measuring of crime, crime statistics and American society and its subsystems, and the standards and methods used to respond to crime and criminal offenders.

#### COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide knowledge about the major aspects of the study of crime, the definitions of criminal behavior. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO1: Define key criminology concepts, including crime, criminal behavior, and deviance, from individual, sociological, psychological, and biological perspectives.
- LO2: Explain and evaluate major criminological theories regarding the causes of crime.
- LO3: Analyze the structure and function of the American criminal justice system, including law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
- LO4: Interpret crime statistics and understand methods used to measure and study crime in American society.
- LO5: Examine the relationship between crime and social factors such as class, race, gender, and community dynamics.

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 2 – Syllabus

- LO6: Assess standards and methods used to respond to criminal behavior, including punishment, rehabilitation, and prevention strategies.
- LO7: Apply criminological concepts and theories to real-world cases and contemporary criminal justice issues.

### **SRSU Library Services**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library at Sul Ross State University 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. A photo ID is required to check out physical materials. Librarians are available for assistance via email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), phone (432-837-8123), or in person.

For RGC students: You also have access to the Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries located in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. These libraries provide additional space and resources, as well as access to online materials via library.swtjc.edu. Moreover, they serve as pickup locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) services from the Alpine campus. 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.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

CJ-GRAD-SLO 1: The student will be able to analyze the function and decision making of the court systems of the United States, including the ability to assess the impact the impact of court rulings, in particular those of the Supreme Court.

CJ-GRAD-SLO 2: Student will be able to identify and apply criminological theories and competing theory arguments.

CJ-GRAD-SLO 3: Student will be able to develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research, including the ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology and develop the ability to apply research to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security policy.

#### **MARKETABLE SKILLS:**

This course is designed also to help the students build 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:

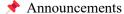
- MS 1- Written Communication Skills
- MS 2- Critical Thinking and Observation
- MS 3- Multicultural Understanding.
- MS 4- Accessing Resources with Crime Data and the most current updates of legal codes and procedures.
- MS 5- Teamwork and Working Collaboratively
- MS 6- Analyzing Factors Contributing to Crime

## **Course Policies and Guidelines**



## Technology Requirements

This course uses **Blackboard** extensively. Students should check it regularly for:



\* Assignments

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 3 – Syllabus

- **★** Grades
- **★** Course materials

**Key Blackboard tools:** email, discussion boards, Grade Center, SafeAssign, and external links. **You will need:** 

- Basic computer skills (email with attachments, internet browsing, Word or similar software)
- A reliable computer with stable internet access
- A current web browser capable of streaming and downloading materials
- Blackboard access using your LoboID and password

Help: Tutorials and support are available on the Blackboard support page.

# **Participation Policy**

Even though this is a fully online course, active participation is required. Begin by completing the non-graded "Introduction" discussion post.

Students are expected to:

- ✓ Log into Blackboard regularly
- ✓ Complete all assignments and exams by their posted due dates
- ✓ Contact the instructor via email with any questions

**Tip:** Consistent engagement is key to success in this course.

# **Attendance Policy**

Attendance and engagement are mandatory. Students may be dropped with an "F" for **excessive non-participation**, defined as:

- More than 3 weeks of inactivity in a long semester
- More than 1 week in a summer session
- More than **3 days** in a midwinter session

### **Inactivity includes:**

- X Not logging into Blackboard
- X Failing to submit assignments
- X Not participating in required activities
- X Not communicating with the instructor
- X Not following participation guidelines in the syllabus

Students must follow academic integrity rules and treat all campus resources professionally. Check your SRSU email regularly, as official communications are sent there.

# **O** Late Assignment Policy

All coursework must be submitted by the stated deadlines. Late work is generally **not accepted**, as due dates are provided at the beginning of the term.

**Exceptions** are allowed only for documented, university-recognized reasons (e.g., illness, family emergency, military assignment). Documentation must be submitted promptly.

**Reminder:** Review the syllabus regularly and stay informed of all deadlines.

## **♦ Academic Integrity**

Students must uphold the highest standards of honesty, as outlined in the Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, or falsification of records, will not be tolerated.

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 4 – Syllabus

#### Definitions:

- Cheating: Using unauthorized materials or assistance during exams, altering records, or obtaining answers dishonestly
- Plagiarism: Submitting someone else's work, ideas, or words as your own without proper citation
- Collusion: Assisting or being complicit in another student's academic dishonesty

Note: Using AI tools like ChatGPT is prohibited unless explicitly allowed for a specific assignment. Violations may result in penalties from a failing grade on the assignment to failure of the course and may lead to further disciplinary action.

Maintaining academic integrity protects both the value of your education and the credibility of the university.

# **APA** Style

All written assignments must follow the American Psychological Association (APA) Seventh Edition formatting and style guide.

### Students must:

- Properly cite all external sources
- Follow APA guidelines for in-text citations, references, and formatting

Failure to cite sources correctly constitutes plagiarism and violates course academic honesty standards. Resources:

• Purdue OWL APA Guide: 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 at <a href="https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services">https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services</a>. 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 Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email <a href="mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu">mschwartze@sulross.edu</a> 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.

### Departmental Undergraduate Program Marketable Skills

(*Aligned with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – 60x30TX Plan*)

The 60x30TX initiative aims for 60% of Texans aged 25–34 to hold a degree or credential by 2030. One key component of this goal is that all graduates from public institutions in Texas will complete academic

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024

Page 5 – Syllabus

programs with clearly defined marketable skills—competencies valued by employers that support career readiness and lifelong employability.

Marketable skills include both technical and soft skills—often referred to as "employability" or "transferable" skills—developed through coursework, research, internships, and co-curricular activities. Graduates of the Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Undergraduate Programs at Sul Ross State University will demonstrate the following marketable skills:

- 1. Effective Verbal and Written Communication
- 2. Data Literacy and Quantitative Analysis Skills
- 3. Critical Thinking and Observational Abilities
- 4. Teamwork and Collaborative Work Practices
- 5. Cultural Competency and Multicultural Understanding
- 6. Analytical Skills in Crime Causation and Prevention
- 7. Knowledge of Legal Codes, Procedures, and Public Safety Protocols

These skills prepare students for diverse roles in law enforcement, homeland security, public service, and justice-related professions.

#### **Course Evaluation**

## Reaction Papers (150 pts each)

- Weekly, based on readings.
- 1 page, 1.5 spacing, 12pt Times New Roman.
- Focus: perspective, analysis, connections; not summaries.
- Due: Sundays, 11:00 PM (CT).

## **Weekly Quizzes (100 pts each)**

- Posted Mondays 9:00 PM, due Sundays 11:00 PM.
- 10 pts each; covers key concepts from readings.

# Midterm Exam (100 pts) – Annotated Bibliography

- 10–12 scholarly sources.
- Each annotation: author, purpose, findings, evidence, comparison, relevance, methods.
- Intro paragraph: topic and significance.
- 300–400 words per annotation (excluding citation).
- Counts as Midterm Exam grade.

### Final Paper (100 pts)

- Topic: social deviance and crime.
- Length: 10–15 pages (body), plus title page, TOC, abstract, references, appendices.
- Double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, APA 7th Edition.
- At least 10 scholarly sources (5 new, not covered in class).
- Submission: Final Paper\_2025\_SUMM\_30282\_CJ\_5328\_FirstName\_LastName via Blackboard Message.

## **□** Submission Process – 3 Stages

- 1 Topic Proposal / Introduction
- 2 Annotated Bibliography (Midterm)
- 3 Final Paper Submission

Check Blackboard course calendar for all deadlines.

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 6 – Syllabus

## **Guidelines for Reaction Paper:**

- Focus on the assigned readings for the week. If multiple readings are assigned, you may choose one for your paper.
- A Reaction Paper is **not a summary**. It should reflect:
  - o Your perspective
  - o Analysis and critique of the ideas presented
  - o Connections to course themes or real-world applications

Due Date: Every Sunday at 11:00 PM (CT) unless otherwise noted.

# **Explanation for Midterm Exam**

The Midterm Exam consists of an **Annotated Bibliography Assignment**, which will form part of the literature foundation for your Final Paper.

### **Requirements:**

- Include 10–12 scholarly sources
- Sources must be scholarly, scientific, peer-reviewed journal articles
  - o Government or expert reports are the only exceptions
  - Web articles, popular magazines, and newspapers (e.g., NYT, Time, Newsweek) will not receive credit unless reprinted in a peer-reviewed journal
- Articles should reflect scientific research and use appropriate research methods

## **Grading Criteria for Final Paper:**

- Clear thesis and argument
- Depth of analysis and application of sociological concepts
- Proper use of APA formatting and citations
- Quality and relevance of sources

### For Each Source, Your Annotation Should Address the Following:

- 1. **Author(s):** Who wrote the article?
- 2. **Purpose:** What was the author's purpose in writing this piece?
- 3. **Major Findings:** What are the key assertions or findings of the article?
- 4. **Evidence:** How does the author support these findings?
- 5. **Comparison:** How does this source compare or contrast with another source in your bibliography?
- 6. **Relevance:** How does this source contribute to your understanding of your chosen Final Paper topic?
- 7. **Research Methods:** What research methods were used in this study?

#### Final / Research Paper (100 Points)

Your **Final Paper** will focus on a topic related to **Social Deviance and Crime**, in keeping with the overall focus of this course. You may select any element of white-collar crime to explore in depth, including but not limited to:

- Policy responses
- Causes and contributing factors
- Theoretical explanations
- Impacts and scope
- Types of white-collar crime
- Industries and areas affected

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 7 – Syllabus

- Offender techniques
- Detection and investigation methods
- Sentencing practices
- Landmark cases

A **sample paper** will be posted on **Blackboard** to provide guidance on proper formatting and structure. You will write a final paper on one of the transnational crimes covered in chapters 4-13. The paper should.

- be 10 to 15 pages (this is the body of your paper excluding everything else)
- include these parts: Title page (1 page), Table of Contents (1 page), Abstract (1 page), Body of the paper one of the transnational crimes covered in chapters 4-13 (10+ pages), References (1 page), Appendices (if any) (see APA Manual for formatting guidelines),
- be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- include at least five scholarly citations other than the ones we covered in the class (not website articles, Wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, etc.), and
- be written according to APA formatting and citation style. Save and attach your final paper using the following naming format exactly:

Final Paper 2025 SUMM 30282 CJ 5328 FirstName LastName

Please attach your Final Paper and submit it to me using Blackboard Module, ensuring you put the same name of your Final Paper as explained above.

# Grading

## **Grading Components**

Assessment	Points
Reaction Papers (15 x 10 points)	150
Weekly Quizzes (15 x 10 points)	150
Midterm Exam Annotated Bibliography	100
Final Paper	100
Total Possible Points	500

## Course Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	500 - 460
В	459 – 420
С	419 – 380
D	379 - 340
F	339 & below

### **Course Schedule**

This course schedule is subject to change as needed to meet the needs of the course. Students will be notified of adjustments when they are made. Also, any additional reading materials, resources and other information will be posted on Blackboard. Students will be notified of how to access this information by the instructor.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>All times are in central time\*\*\*

Intro to Criminal Justice Professor Balcioglu Fall 2024 Page 8 – Syllabus

**Weekly Tentative Course Schedule** 

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	August 25-31	Course Introduction & Requirements	Syllabus &
		Introduction to Criminology	Semester Project
		8	Guidelines
			Chapter 1
			Quiz # 1
2	September 1-7	Measuring Crime	Chapter 2
	Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> , Labor Day		Quiz # 2
	No class		
3	September 8-14	The Classical School of Criminological Thought	Chapter 3
			Quiz # 3
4	September 15-21	Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research	Chapter 4
		SUBMITION of RESEARCH TOPIC	Quiz # 4
5	September 22-28	Early Positivism: Biological Theories of Crime	Chapter 5
		Early Tositivism. Diological Theories of Crime	Quiz # 5
6	Sep 29-Oct 5	Modern Biosocial Perspectives of Criminal Behavior	Chapter 6
		Wiodel if Biosocial Terspectives of Criminal Behavior	Quiz # 6
			,
7	October 6-12	Psychological/Trait Theories of Crime	Chapter 7
			Quiz # 7
0	0 + 1 - 12 10		C1 4 0
8	October 13-19	Social Structure Theories of Crime I: Early	Chapter 8
	October 17, Final Day for Midterm	<b>Development and Strain Models of Crime</b>	Quiz # 8
	Exam	MIDTERM EXAM	
		ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY	
9	October 20-26	Social Structure Theories of Crime II: Social	Chapter 9
		Disorganization and Subcultures	Quiz # 9
10	October 27- Nov 2	Social Process and Control Theories of Crime	Chapter 10
			Quiz # 10
11	November 3-9	Labeling Theory and Conflict/Marxist/Radical	Chapter 11
		Theories of Crime	Quiz # 11
12	November 10-16	Feminist Theories of Crime	Chapter 12
		1 Chamber 1 incomes of Chamber	Quiz # 12
13	November 17-23	Developmental/Life-Course Perspectives of	Chapter 13
		Criminality	Quiz # 13
1.4	N124 N 20		
14	November 24-Nov 30	White-Collar Crime, Organized Crime, and	Chapter 14
	Thanksgiving Day Holiday (11 / 26-28)	Cybercrime	Quiz # 14
	20)	November 25th, the last day before Thanksgiving.	
15	December 1-7	Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and Homeland Security	Chapter 15
-		Last Class Day before Finals	Quiz # 15
	December 4	FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION	
		FINAL FAFER SUDIVIDSIUN	

### **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.

<sup>\*\*</sup>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