

Sul Ross State University
Criminology of Cybercrime
FALL 2025
CJ 5362 Syllabus

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Class hours/ Classroom: Online

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

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Cybercriminology Marie-Helen Maras (ISBN 978-0-19027844-1)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

R Bandler, J. & Merzon, A. (2020). *Cybercrime Investigations: A comprehensive Resource for Everyone*. ISBN 9781003033523. CRC Press.

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

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer 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 logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email. 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.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH DATA

- 1- Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS) of the Department of Justice <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ccips>
- 2- CCIPS Press Releases – 2019 <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ccips/ccips-press-releases-2019>
- 3- FBI The Uniform Crime Reports <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>
- 4- DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics <https://www.bjs.gov/>
- 5- National Crime Victimization Survey <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>
- 6- National Computer Security Survey <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=260>

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 7- International | Crime | Victim | Survey |
| http://www.unicri.it/services/library_documentation/publications/icvs/ | | | |
| 8- General Social Survey | https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/89F0115X | | |
| 9- Executive Order | 13636 | https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/executive-order-improving-critical-infrastructure-cybersecurity | |
| 10- NIST Cybersecurity Framework | https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework | | |
| 11- UNODC Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime | https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/cybersecurity-capacity/content/unodc-comprehensive-study-cybercrime | | |
| 12- Internet Crime Complaint Center | https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx | | |

RECOMMENDED VIDEO RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE

1. Targeted Cyber Attack Reality—Don't Be a Victim—Trend Micro, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hs8rc2u5ak>
2. Three Alleged International Cyber Criminals Charged for Creating & Distributing the Gozi Virus, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk32_8UFL8w
3. Cesare Lombroso, Left Handedness, and the Criminal Mind, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmdAYqqc8gc>
4. Kevin Mitnick, The Cyberspace Kid, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQKF3m45-rI>
5. Anonymous - The Hacker Wars Full Documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku9edEKvGuY>
6. Hackers National Geographic Full documentary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqdkSizQLRk>
7. Stalking Amanda Todd: The Man in the Shadows—The Fifth Estate, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRidpO7kUO0>
8. Cyberstalking Documentary—Crime & Investigation Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZ6LByl0pgw>
9. Navigating the Underground Darknet Black Markets and Tor Hidden Services <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPMg4ALAKok>
10. The Silk Road: The Rise and Fall of the World's Largest Online Black Market, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkRhBOZSw38>
11. The Mix: Cyber-terrorism's Threat, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11F3eywqD-I>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to introduce you to criminological theories and their applicability to various cybercrimes. During the semester through your readings, you will gain knowledge about different cybercrime typologies, how to measure cybercrime, cyber victimization, profiling of cybercrime victims and offenders. Moreover, the course designed to give information to students about the relationship between cybercrime and organized crime and political crimes.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide knowledge about various criminal theories and their applicability to cybercrimes. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

LO1- Define cybercrime. Understand and define the differences between traditional crimes and cybercrimes.

LO2- Identify major crime measurement instruments and their applicability to assess cybercrimes.

LO3- Define and discuss different types, profiles, and patterns of cyber victimization. Identify the role of victims in various types of cybercrimes. Identify the theories of cyber victimization.

LO4- Identify and discuss the theories explaining cybercrime. Explain the legal and operational challenges for cybercrime investigations. Identify and assess various types of laws, regulations, and punishments for cybercrimes.

LO5- Describe and identify the concept of Internet addiction. Identify the tools used to measure and deal with this type of addiction.

LO6- Discuss various criminological theories (psychological, sociological, sub-cultural, etc.) and their applicability to explain cybercrimes.

LO7- Define moral panic, identify key actors and implications of moral panic.

LO8- Discuss conflict theories, power relations in society and their applicability to cybercrimes.

LO9- Identify and discuss major cybercrime typologies.

L10- Identify and discuss the relationship between organized crime and cybercrimes.

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

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 their earliest convenience to check the course web page every day for announcements. Weekly forum discussions 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/DISCUSSIONS (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 EXAM (200 POINT)

For your midterm exam, you will prepare an annotated bibliography of 10-12 sources as part of your final paper literature. Use scholarly, scientific, peer-reviewed articles. Credit will not be given for articles that are not from scholarly journals (The only exemption will be government/expert reports). Don't use web articles unless they are copies from a journal article, no magazines such as NYT, Time or Newsweek, etc. Scholarly research articles use the scientific method to examine an issue.

While you are preparing your bibliography, try to answer these questions about the source you are reading. These answers/annotations should include one or more sentences.

1. Name the author(s)
2. What was the purpose of the author in writing the piece?
3. What are the author's major assertions or findings?
4. How does the author support these findings?
5. Compare or contrast this work with another you have cited

6. Discuss how this work explains your selected topic
7. Information about the research methods used in the source
8. Above all write an intro paragraph about your topic and why do you think it is important

Format Rules:

1. You will prepare your bibliography by using the American Psychological Association (APA) for showing your citations for these resources.

For APA format, you can check these websites:

<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/citations>

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

<https://www.citationmachine.net/>

2. 300-400 words for each article (excluding the article title)

FINAL PAPER (400 POINTS)

The paper should include at least five **SCHOLARLY CITATIONS** (not website articles, Wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, etc.), be ten to fifteen pages long (not including cover page and list of references), and typed double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. Be sure to follow APA formatting and citation guidelines. A detailed guide for the steps completing this paper will be added to the Blackboard. **FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION WILL BE IN THREE SUBSEQUENT STEPS. FOR IMPORTANT DATES CHECK THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR BELOW.**

A plagiarism detection software (SafeAssign) is used in this course. SafeAssign will detect and report all instances of plagiarism including where the student copied and pasted directly from a source. Students will receive a grade of zero in these instances and possibly fail the course. Your weekly reaction papers and the final paper will be submitted through SafeAssign. Detailed instruction for using this software will be uploaded on BlackBoard.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

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. See <https://sulross.libguides.com/citation/plagiarism> for more information.

POLICY ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS:

In this course, you are not required to use any form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, etc. However, if you choose to use any AI tools as part of your assignments—other than for brainstorming, proofreading, etc.—you must provide proper citation. We use APA citation format in all of our CJ courses. For more information about proper APA citation, please visit [SRSU Library Teaching and Learning Guides](#).

Using AI tools to complete any assignment without proper citation violates academic integrity and will be considered a form of plagiarism, which is a violation of the SRSU Academic Honesty Policy under the [Student Handbook](#). If you are unsure whether something is considered an AI tool, please check with your instructor.

You are permitted to use AI tools for spell check, grammar check, and proofreading. Rephrasing sentences or reorganizing paragraphs you have drafted yourself is also allowed. However, remember that the most important part is that all work you submit must be your own. You should never include anything in your assignment that was not written directly by you without proper citation. DO NOT copy and paste directly from any AI tools.

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 [SRSU Library Teaching and Learning Guides](#) 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](#). 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_432-837-8888 (M-F 08:00 am-05:00 pm).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, 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 a secure login. 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.

SERVICE STATEMENT:

I aim 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 Sul Ross State University 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.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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 mschwartze@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.

COUNSELING:

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/sulross). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

TUTORING CENTER

The Lobo Den Tutoring Center offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments: Flexible options to fit your needs.

Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Workshops: Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.

Location: BWML Room 128.

Contact Us: For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.

Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

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. Discussion board posts will not be accepted for credit once the discussion board closes.

GRADING:

There will be 1 midterm exam and weekly quizzes throughout the semester, with questions drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials, which will be posted on the Blackboard. The midterm exam will be worth 200 points. There will be no makeup exam. Every week there will be a quiz for the related chapter(s). Each quiz will be worth 10 points. The total grade will be 150 for all quizzes. Weekly reaction papers (Including research topic and intro paper assignment) will be 10 points each. The total grade for papers will be 150. Your final paper will be worth 400 points.

Midterm Exam	200 pts
Weekly Quizzes	150 pts (15 quizzes, 10 points each)
Reaction papers	150 pts (15 papers, 10 points each)
Final Paper	400 pts
Total	900 pts

Scale:

A 900-810 B 809-719 C 718-628 D 627-510 F 509 & below

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

W	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	August 25-31	Introduction of Syllabus and course requirements Definition and Types of Cybercrime	- Course syllabus (blackboard) - ITU (2012) Understanding cybercrime: Phenomena, challenges and legal response pg: 11-42 -UNODC. (2013). Draft Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime (pp. 11-22). QUIZ 1 PAPER 1
2	Sept 1-7	Criminal Statutes Outlawing Cybercrime	Bandler and Merzon Chapter2 QUIZ 2 PAPER 2
3	Sept 8-14	Cybercrime and Cybercriminals: The Development of Cybercriminology	- Maras Chapter 1 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 3 PAPER 3
4	Sept 15-21	Measuring Cybercrime <u>RESEARCH TOPIC & INTRO</u> <u>DUE DATE</u>	- Maras Chapter 2 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 4 PAPER 4
5	Sept 22-28	Cybervictimization	- Maras Chapter 3 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 5 PAPER 5
6	Sept 29-Oct 5	Cybercrime, Rational Choice, and Emotions: Punishment and Reduction of Cyberoffending	- Maras Chapter 4 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 6 PAPER 6
7	Oct 6- 12	Cybercrime and the Propensity to Offend	- Maras Chapter 5 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 7 PAPER 7

8	Oct 13-19	Cybercrime, Culture, and Inequality	- Maras Chapter 6 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 8 PAPER 8
9	Oct 20-26	<u>MIDTERM EXAM (ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FINAL PAPER)</u> Conformity, Learning, and Sources of Social Control	- Maras Chapter 7 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 9 PAPER 9
10	Oct 27-Nov 2	Constructing and Reacting to Cybercrime: Labels and Moral Panics	- Maras Chapter 8 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 10 PAPER 10
11	Nov 3-9	Conflict Cybercriminology: Cybercrime, Power, and Gender	- Maras Chapter 9 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 11 PAPER 11
12	Nov 10-16	Interpersonal Cybercrime Cybertrespass, Cybervandalism, and Cybertheft	- Maras Chapters 10-11 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 12 PAPER 12
13	Nov 17- 23	Deviant Cyberacts and Public Order Cybercrimes: Paraphilia, Prostitution, Substance Abuse, and Gambling	- Maras Chapter 12 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 13 PAPER 13
14	Nov 24- 30	Organized Cybercrime	- Maras Chapter 13 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 14 PAPER 14
15	Dec 1-7	Political Cybercrime	- Maras Chapter 14 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 15 PAPER 15
16	Dec 8	<u>FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION DUE DATE</u>	

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.