



PUNISHMENT (2025_SUMM_30278_CJ_4376 1W1_Punishment) Start Date: 05/28/2025 End Date: 07/02/2025 Classroom: Online	Assistant Professor Ercan BALCIOGLU Tel: (432) 837-8336 ercan.balcioglu@sulross.edu Class hours: Online Office hours: By Appointment
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SYLLABUS

COURSE MATERIALS

The following course materials are required

1. Thom Brooks (2021). *Punishment: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd Edition. London: Routledge. ISBN 9781138694668 <https://www.routledge.com/Punishment-A-Critical-Introduction/Brooks/p/book/9781138694668>.
2. 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 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.

Course Description

This course explores the meaning and role of punishment within the framework of the modern state, examining how various forms of punishment reflect broader ideas about personal responsibility and human subjectivity. The first section introduces four foundational theories of punishment: retributivism, deterrence, rehabilitation, and restorative justice. The second section focuses on three “hybrid” or integrative theories that combine elements from these core models. These include the mixed theories of John Rawls and Herbert Hart, negative retributivism, expressivist and communicative theories, and the unified theory of punishment. The course concludes with case studies addressing critical contemporary issues in punishment philosophy, including responses to juvenile offenders, cyber-crimes, and the impact of social media on justice systems.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the major competing theories and approaches to punishment. Recognizing that punishment is not only a matter of theory but also of practice, the course is structured to first explore philosophical frameworks and then apply them to real-world contexts. This dual focus will help students develop a deeper understanding of abstract concepts as well as the practical implications of each theory.

Through critical engagement with both classical and contemporary perspectives, students will examine how different punishment models address real-life challenges across diverse case studies. The course also aims to provide a comprehensive overview of recent scholarship and emerging alternatives in the philosophy of punishment. By the end of the course, students will be better equipped to assess the strengths and limitations of each theoretical approach and apply them thoughtfully to contemporary justice issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)

CJ-UNDERGRAD-SLO 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge of key provisions of the **U.S. Constitution** as they pertain to specific **legal liabilities** within the criminal justice system.

CJ-UNDERGRAD-SLO 2: Students will demonstrate understanding of **criminological theories** and apply those theories to the analysis of **practical criminal justice scenarios and events**.

CJ-UNDERGRAD-SLO 3: Students will exhibit a working knowledge of the **terminology** used in the **criminal justice system**, identify its major components and associated **costs**, and recognize the influence of **political factors** on its operation.

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 Assessments

1 - Discussion Board Posts (100 points total): Participation in discussion is an important part of this course. The students in Homeland Security & Criminal Justice programs are expected to be well informed about core concepts and contemporary issues. The students should be able to demonstrate evidence of reflective thought while discussing a topic and the ability to support a position based on evidence from the literature. In addition, the ability to engage in discussion with respectful consideration of others' opinions is expected.

There will be five (5) discussion board topics in this course. Students must post one comment and two responses to each discussion board topic. The one comment should be your response to the question posted in the discussion board. The other two posts should be your thoughtful responses to other students' post.

THERE ARE TWO SEPERATE WEEKLY DEADLINES FOR DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS! In order to receive credit, you must post your comment to the posted discussion board question by **Thursday midnight**. In addition, you must post two responses to other students' post by **Tuesday midnight**. Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 20 points (10 points your own comment + 10 points your responses). However, in order to receive full credit for these

posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements:

- Comments should be a minimum of 100 words and responses should be minimum of 50 words.
- All of your posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion.
- All of your posts should use correct grammar and punctuation.
- Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.
- Read the “Discussion Board Guidelines” on Blackboard prior to posting to the discussion board!!!

2 - Quizzes (100 points total): There will be four (4) quizzes. You will take a quiz every week to measure the knowledge of the week’s required readings. These examinations will cover topics in the field of punishment as well as the assigned readings. The questions will be posted on **Thursday**, and the due date will be next **Tuesday at 11:59 PM** every week.

3 - Final Exam (100 points): The Final Exam is comprehensive; thus, it will test students on all the topics covered during the course. The Final exam is worth 100 points. No make-up test will be given, unless an uncontrollable emergency or illness arises (written proof required).

4 - Final Paper (100 Points): You will write a final paper on the “Philosophy of Capital Punishment”.

The paper should;

- a) be between 4 to 6 pages,
- b) include these parts: Title page (1 page), Table of Contents (1 page), Abstract (1 page), Body of the paper - The Philosophy of Capital Punishment (4+ pages), References (1 page), Appendices (if any),
- c) be typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Calibri font,
- d) include at least three scholarly citations other than the ones we covered in the class (not website articles, Wikipedia, news agencies, magazines, and etc.),
- e) be written according to APA formatting and citation style (Recommended textbook APA Manual)

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 “0” in these instances, and possibly fail the course. Your final paper will be submitted through SafeAssign.

Technology Requirements

This course requires frequent use of **Blackboard**. Students must check it regularly for announcements, assignments, grades, and course materials. Key Blackboard tools include email, course documents, discussion boards, grade center, SafeAssign, and external links.

Basic Computer Skills Needed:

- Sending/receiving email with attachments
- Browsing the internet and downloading files
- Using word processing software (e.g., MS Word)

Required Technology:

- A reliable computer with stable internet access
- A current web browser capable of streaming content and downloading materials
- Access to Blackboard using your **LoboID and password**

For assistance, tutorials are available on the Blackboard support page.

Participation Policy

This is a fully online course with no class meetings scheduled. However, active participation is expected. To start, please complete the non-graded **“Introduction” post** to introduce yourself to your classmates and your professor.

Students are expected to:

- **Log into Blackboard regularly** to check announcements, assignments, and deadlines
- **Complete all assignments and exams online** by their posted due dates
- **Contact the instructor via email** with any questions about course materials, assignments, or exams.

Consistent engagement is key to success in this course.

Attendance Policy

Although this is a fully online course, student engagement and participation are still mandatory. The University’s attendance policy applies to all distance learning courses. A student may be dropped with an **“F” grade** for excessive non-participation—defined as **more than 3 weeks of inactivity** in a long semester, **1 week in a summer session**, or **3 days in a midwinter session**.

Inactivity includes:

- Not logging into Blackboard
- Not submitting assignments
- Not participating in required activities
- Not communicating with the instructor
- Not following the participation guidelines in the syllabus

Students must respect academic integrity and copyright laws. All submitted work must be their own unless group work is specifically assigned. Additionally, students accessing the course from a remote site are expected to treat the host campus, its facilities, and staff with professionalism and care.

Students are required to check their **SRSU email accounts regularly**, as all official communications—including those sent via Blackboard—will be directed there.

Late Assignment Submission Policy

All coursework and assignments must be submitted **by the stated deadlines**. Late work is generally **not accepted**, as students are informed of all due dates at the beginning of the term and are expected to plan accordingly.

Exceptions will only be made in cases of **documented and university-recognized excuses**. If a student misses an assignment or exam, they must promptly provide a valid explanation and supporting documentation.

Students are strongly encouraged to review the syllabus regularly and stay informed of all deadlines throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty as outlined in the **Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct**. Any form of academic dishonesty—including **cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, or falsification of records**—will not be tolerated and will be addressed in accordance with university policies.

Definitions:

- **Cheating:** Using unauthorized materials or assistance during exams, altering academic records, or obtaining answers through dishonest means.
- **Plagiarism:** Submitting another’s work, ideas, or words as your own without proper citation.
- **Collusion:** Assisting or being complicit in another student’s academic dishonesty.

Using tools like **ChatGPT or other AI generators** is prohibited unless explicitly permitted for a specific assignment. Violations may result in penalties ranging from a failing grade on an 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

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 at <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/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 Schwartze 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.

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 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.

Other Course Expectations

- This is an upper-level college course, and students are expected to produce work that reflects that level of academic rigor. This includes the use of proper APA formatting, correct grammar, clear sentence structure, and organized presentation of ideas.
- Students are responsible for carefully reviewing the syllabus to stay informed about assignment requirements and due dates. Please contact the instructor promptly if clarification is needed.

Grading

Grading Components

Assessment	Points
Discussion Board Posts (5 x 20 points)	100
Weekly Quizzes (4 x 25 points)	100
Final Exam	100
Final Paper	100
Total Possible Points	400

Course Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	400 – 360
B	359 – 320
C	319 – 280
D	279 – 240
F	239 & 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. ***All times are in central time***

DATE	TOPICS	COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES
Week 1 May 28 - June 3	Introduction CH 1 – Retributivism CH 2 – Deterrence	Discussion Board 1 Comments Due: 11:59 pm 6/1 Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 11:59 pm 6/3 Quiz 1 will be available on Wednesday 5/29 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/4
Week 2 June 4 - 10	CH 3 – Rehabilitation CH 4 – Restorative Justice	Discussion Board 2 Comments Due: 11:59 pm 6/6 Discussion Board 2 Responses Due: 11:59 pm 6/10 Quiz 2 will be available on Wednesday 6/5 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/11
Week 3 June 11 - 17	CH 5 – Rawls, Hart, and the Mixed Theory CH 6 – Expressivism and Communication	Discussion Board 3 Comments Due: 11:59 pm 6/13 Discussion Board 3 Responses Due: 11:59 pm 6/17 Quiz 3 will be available on Wednesday 6/12 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/18
Week 4 June 18 - 24	CH 7 – Unified Theory of Punishment Conclusion (pg 276-284)	Discussion Board 4 Comments Due: 11:59 pm 6/22 Discussion Board 4 Responses Due: 11:59 pm 6/24 Quiz 4 will be available on Wednesday 6/19 and close at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 6/25
Week 5 June 25 - July 2 !!! END OF TERM !!!	CH 9 – Juvenile Offenders CH 12 – Cyber Crimes and Social Media	Discussion Board 5 Comments Due: 11:59 pm 6/26 Discussion Board 5 Responses Due: 11:59 pm 7/2 The Final Paper is due by Tuesday 11:59 PM, 7/2 Comprehensive Final Exam will open up at 12:00 am on Wednesday 7/3 and close on Wednesday 7/3 at 11:59 pm (You have 24 hours to take the 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.

****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****