

**CJ 2328 Police Systems and Practices**

**Sul Ross State University – Fall 2026**

---

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Instructor</b>            | : Kevin Watts                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>E-mail</b>                | : <a href="mailto:Kevin.Watts@sulross.edu">Kevin.Watts@sulross.edu</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>Telephone</b>             | : N/A                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Classroom &amp; Hours</b> | : Online                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Office Hours</b>          | : Virtual, by appointment only.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Contacting Me</b>         | : This is an online course, and the best way to reach me is via email. Do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I will respond to email inquiries promptly. |

---

**Required & Recommended Texts**

- 1) (REQUIRED) Hess, K., Orthmann, C., & Cho. H., (2014). Police Operations: Theory and Practice, 6th Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1285052625
- 2) (RECOMMENDED) American Psychological Association (October 2019), Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition, <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition-spiral>
- 3) Additional readings (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard.

Regarding scientific journal articles, [Byrian Wildenthal Memorial Library of SRSU](#) has an extensive database infrastructure. The Library exists to provide learning resources and services necessary to support your educational, research, and information needs. You can get detailed information, advising and other sorts of help in person, over the phone, 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 SRSU](#) and reach the articles on the additional reading list. 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. 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](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

### **Course Description**

---

This is a required course for the Criminal Justice major. This course examines policing in the United States, including historical foundations, emerging issues, and the relationship between law enforcement and the community. This will include the various types of law enforcement agencies, their administrative practices, and the behavior of those involved in the delivery of policing services. All these areas will be viewed through the lens of democratic values and the societal perceptions of police effectiveness. This course also explores the law enforcement career field, as well as current and future professional trends.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

---

This course will provide you with a foundational knowledge of police systems and practices that can be applied academically, professionally, or as a basis for an individual volunteer experience / internship. The followings reflect the objectives of this course, which are to provide the student with an understanding of the various components, facets, and relationships of police systems and practices.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

---

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

1. Understand the foundations and the historical development of policing and law enforcement, as well as the structure of police organization and administration in the United States.
2. Understand contemporary issues related to police operations, including recruitment, selection, training, promotion of police officers, as well as traditional and contemporary strategies in policing.
3. Examine critical topics related to police conduct, such as police culture and workplace experiences, police ethics and decision-making, and police misconduct and accountability.
4. Examine complex issues and challenges that impact American policing today, such as social diversity; advancements in technology, and global issues, such as terrorism and transnational organized crime.

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

**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 the Factors Contributing to Crime

---

### Course Activities & Assessments

---

This course requires the submission of

(2) Written Assignments

(5) AI-Assisted Conversations

(4) Discussions

(1) Quiz

(1) Midterm

(1) Final exam.

This course also requires substantive participation in 4 discussion forums. This course is not self-paced, each assignment must be submitted on or before the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted – medical emergency or illness will require written verification. Any other exceptions are at the discretion of the instructor.

**AI-Assisted Discussions:** Initial discussion responses and replies to at least five AI-generated follow-up questions must be submitted during the week in which the discussion is assigned and on or before the stated due date. Initial responses must contain at least 300 words, address all parts of the discussion prompt, use the student's own words, and demonstrate an understanding of the assigned course materials. Replies to the AI-generated questions must thoughtfully clarify, expand, or reflect on the ideas presented in the initial response. Responses that are incomplete, off topic, submitted late, or do not meet these requirements will not receive credit.

**Discussion Forums:** Initial discussion posts and replies to at least two students must (a) submitted in the week in which they are due and (b) submitted on or before the due date. Responses must address of the corresponding discussion prompts. Replies must either add depth to the discussion, ask clarifying questions, or provide a different point of view. Discussion post responses and replies that do not fulfill the above-referenced requirements will not receive credit.

**Written Assignments:** Research papers must be formatted according to each assignments instructions and submitted as Word.docx files. If you need additional academic writing assistance, I will be happy to connect you with a wide range of student resources to support your academic success.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Remember that you will upload your assignments to BlackBoard. A plagiarism detection software ([SafeAssign](#)) is used in this course. Your essays will be submitted through SafeAssign. This program detects and reports 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.

### **Technology Requirements**

---

Blackboard is a course management tool that is an integral part of this course. You are required to check Blackboard on a regular basis to keep abreast of course developments. Several Blackboard features are utilized throughout the course including email, course documents, the discussion board, grade center, external links, and SafeAssign. This course requires a significant amount of online activity. In order for students to participate and progress in this course the followings are required.

#### Minimum Computer Skills Requirement

Using Blackboard does not require any special skills. Blackboard is, however, an Internet tool so you must possess basic computer skills, specifically

- using e-mail (sending, opening, replying, and saving attachments)
- web browsing (navigating, searching, and downloading)
- word processing (MS Word or compatible)

For more information and instructions about using Blackboard, see the [Blackboard tutorials](#).

#### Hardware & Software Requirements

You must have regular and reliable access to a computer with access to the Web. The computer must be robust enough to run one of the recent web browsers and download files in a

reasonable amount of time. You will need to be able to reach the World Wide Web, either through a network at your place of business or through a connection from home, using an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

---

### Participation Policy

---

This class is a fully online course; there are no class meetings. However, you are still expected to log into the class every day to check for announcements. You are also expected to substantively participate in the weekly discussion forums. All assignments and examinations are to be submitted on or before the final due dates. Please e-mail me if you have any questions regarding course.

---

### Attendance Policy

---

Students are expected to respect their classmates' and instructors' privacy and the work or comments they produce. All assignments you submit or tests you take must be your own work unless you have been requested that you work in groups. You may not submit work that is plagiarized or violates copyright laws. It is also your responsibility to respect copyright protection of licensed computer software. When you are taking a distance education course from a remote site, please remember that you are "guests" on the remote site campus. The facilities, equipment, staff, and materials at that site are neither the property nor employees of Sul Ross State University. Please treat the site respectfully and be responsible in caring for the site that we have been allowed to use.

Absence policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences with a grade of "F". **In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session.** Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an "F" in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

- Not logging on to the course,
- Not submitting assignments,
- Not participating in scheduled activities,
- Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or
- Not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

All students taking distance learning classes **are responsible for checking their [Sul Ross email account](#)** regularly for notices from the School and from their instructors. A student's Sul Ross

email address is added to Blackboard when a student registers, so when instructors email students through Blackboard, **the message is sent to the student's Sul Ross email account.** Email accounts are automatically set up when a student registers. In order to use your SRSU email account, you will need to log in to the email system. The information you need in order to log in is a username and a password.

---

### Late Assignment Submission Policy

---

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. In principle, I do not accept late work and do not believe in allowing students to turn in work after the due date. My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments and take their exams in a timely manner.

If an assignment/exam is missed or late the students are expected to show an appropriate cause for this issue. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university. Students are encouraged to frequently review the syllabus and remain aware of the deadlines for all assignments and exams.

---

### Academic Integrity

---

Be sure that you understand the university's Academic Honesty Policy. It is important that you refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. SRSU students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the by the ["Sul Ross Student Handbook"](#).

SRSU and the instructor of this course both place a high priority on the academic integrity of their student scholars. As a result, all institutional guidelines and instructional policies concerning academic integrity will be strictly and uniformly enforced with all students regardless of context.

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- 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.

---

### 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](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html).

---

### Student Support Services

---

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 at <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, students are encouraged to contact Student Support Services at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105.

---

### Distance Education Statement

---

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, 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 secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. 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. You can get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>.

---

### Online Support Desk

---

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your

convenience. You can reach the support desk:

- By calling 888 - 837 6055
- Via email [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

---

### **Students with Special Needs - Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA)**

---

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. Alpine students seeking accessibility / accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall – room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

---

### **Departmental Undergraduate Program Marketable Skills**

---

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) sets statewide goals through the 60x30TX initiative. The THECB plan includes four major goals: 60x30: Educated Population, Completion, Marketable skills, and Student debt. The [60x30TX](#) plan was designed to tie together all four student- centered goals. 60x30, which measures the educated population in Texas, is the overarching goal at the center of the plan and calls for 60 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds in Texas to hold a credential or degree by 2030. The 60x30 goal is supported by the other three goals (completion, marketable skills, student debt) that will get Texas to 60 percent by 2030.

By 2030, all graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills. Students who can effectively market their skills to potential employers can secure employment that pays competitively. Marketable skills include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas, are valued by employers, and are primary or complementary to a major. Marketable skills are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities. Marketable skills are often called “employability skills” in other countries, or “transferable skills” here in the states. They include both technical and soft skills. The marketable skills of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Undergraduate Programs are listed as follows:

1. Students Develop Verbal and Written Communication Skills.
2. Students Access Resources with Crime Data and Work with Numbers and Demonstrate Quantitative Skills.
3. Students Use Critical Thinking and Observation.
4. Students Use Teamwork and Work Collaboratively.
5. Students Develop Multicultural Understanding.
6. Students Analyze the Factors Contributing the Crime
7. Students Know Legal Codes & Procedures and Safety.

### Classroom Climate of Respect

---

Students are expected to respect their classmates' and instructors' privacy and the work or comments they produce. Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that 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 because of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### Other Course Expectations

---

- Remember that this is a college course, therefore, college level work will be expected which includes proper APA format, proper grammar, sentence structure, and organizational structure.
- Review the syllabus carefully so that you may be aware of any assignments and their due dates; contact me for any clarifications.
- Check BlackBoard regularly for any announcements for significant information.

### Grading

---

| Assignment Type           | # | Total Points |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| Discussions               | 4 | 200          |
| AI Assisted Conversations | 5 | 350          |
| Written Assignments       | 6 | 150          |
| Quizzes                   | 1 | 60           |
| Midterm                   | 1 | 120          |
| Final Exam                | 1 | 120          |

## SYLLABUS - CJ 2328: Police Systems and Practices

|                               |  |             |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| <b>Total Points Possible:</b> |  | <b>1000</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|

**Final Grade Table**

| <b>Point Range</b> | <b>Grade</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1000-905           | <b>A</b>     |
| 904-805            | <b>B</b>     |
| 804-705            | <b>C</b>     |
| 704-655            | <b>D</b>     |
| 654-0              | <b>F</b>     |

## Tentative Weekly Course Schedule

| Week/Module | Dates                  | Topics                                       | Assignments                   |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1           | Aug 24 – Aug 30        | The Basics Behind Police Operations          | AI Discussion: Due 8/30       |
| 2           | Aug 31 – Sept 6        | The History of Policing in the U.S.          | Discussion: Due 9/6           |
| 3           | Sept 8 – Sept 13       | Police Communications                        | AI Discussion: Due 9/13       |
| 4           | Sept 14 – Sept 20      | Police Operations: Performing Within the Law | AI Discussion 9/20            |
| 5           | Sept 21 – Sept 27      | Patrol: Backbone of Police Operations        | Research Paper: Due 9/27      |
| 6           | Sept 28 – Oct 4        | Crime Disorder and Quality of Life Issues    | Discussion: Due 10/4          |
| 7           | Oct 5 – Oct 11         | Violence in our Society                      | No Assignment                 |
| 8           | Oct 12 – Oct 18        | Midterm                                      | Midterm: Due 10/18            |
| 9           | Oct 19 – Oct 25        | Terrorism and Policing                       | Discussion: Due 10/25         |
| 10          | Oct 26 – Nov 1         | Criminal Investigations                      | AI Discussion: Due 11/1       |
| 11          | Nov 2 – Nov 8          | Criminal Investigations II                   | Written Assignment: Due Nov 8 |
| 12          | Nov 9 – Nov 15         | Responding to Juveniles and Children         | Discussion: Due 11/15         |
| 13          | Nov 16 – Nov 22        | Gangs and Drugs                              | AI Discussion: Due 11/22      |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>Nov 23 – Nov 29</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>                    | <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>     |
| 15          | Dec 1 – Dec 6          | The Importance of Mental Health              | Discussion: Due 12/6          |
| 16          | Dec 7 – <b>Dec 13</b>  | Course Wrap Up and Final Exam                | Final Exam: <b>Due 12/13</b>  |

*\*\*\*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\*\*\**

**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.