



SYLLABUS- 2026_FALL_11770_CJ_4304
W01_CRIMINOLOGY
Start Date: 08/24/2026 **End Date:** 12/10/2026
Type: Online
Class Hours: Online

Assistant Professor Ercan BALCIOGLU
Tel: (432) 837-8336
ercan.balcioğlu@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:

Anthony Walsh and Cody Jorgensen, (2025). ***Criminology: The Essentials (Fifth Edition)***, SAGE Publications, Inc., **Vantage Platform ISBN:** 9781071956380.

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.

- **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 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 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:

- ✦ Announcements
- ✦ Assignments

- 📌 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:

- ✗ Not logging into Blackboard
- ✗ Failing to submit assignments
- ✗ Not participating in required activities
- ✗ Not communicating with the instructor
- ✗ 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.

🕒 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.

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 <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 Schwartz 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.

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 (150 pts each)

- Posted Mondays at 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.

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:
 - Your perspective
 - Analysis and critique of the ideas presented
 - 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**
 - 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**

- **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
B	459 – 420
C	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.

*****All times are in central time*****

Weekly Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	August 24-30	Course Introduction & Requirements VM VANTAGE MODULE: INFORMATION LITERACY, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, AND RESPONSIBLE AI USE: ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR LEARNING	Syllabus & Semester Project Guidelines
2	August 31-September 6 Sep 7 th , Labor Day No class	AN OVERVIEW OF CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY	Chapter 1 Quiz # 1
3	September 7-13	MEASURING CRIME AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR VICTIMOLOGY: EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCE OF VICTIMIZATION	Chapters 2 and 3 Quiz # 2 and 3
4	September 14-20	THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF CRIMINOLOGY CRIME AS CHOICE : RATIONALITY, EMOTION, AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR SUBMISSION of RESEARCH TOPIC	Chapters 4 and 5 Quiz # 4 and 5
5	September 21-27	SOCIAL STRUCTURAL THEORIES SOCIAL PROCESS THEORIES	Chapters 6 and 7 Quiz # 6 and 7
6	Sep 28-Oct 4	CRITICAL AND FEMINIST THEORIES PSYCHOSOCIAL THEORIES: INDIVIDUAL TRAITS AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR	Chapter 8 and 9 Quiz # 8 and 9
7	October 5-11	BIOSOCIAL APPROACHES	Chapter 10 Quiz # 10
8	October 12-18 October 16 Midterm Exam October 19, Final Day for grade by noon	DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES: FROM DELINQUENCY TO CRIME TO DESISTANCE MIDTERM EXAM ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY	Chapter 11 Quiz # 11
9	October 19-25	CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	Chapter 12 Quiz # 12
10	October 26- Nov 1	TERRORISM	Chapter 13 Quiz # 13
11	November 2-8	PROPERTY CRIME	Chapter 14 Quiz # 14
12	November 9-15	PUBLIC ORDER CRIME	Chapter 15 Quiz # 15
13	November 16-22	WHITE-COLLAR CRIME	Chapter 16 Quiz # 16
14	November 23-Nov 29 Thanksgiving Day Holiday (11 / 25-27)	ORGANIZED CRIME November 25 th , the last day before Thanksgiving.	Chapter 17 Quiz # 17
15	Nov 30-December 6 December 3 is Dead Day	Last Class Day before Finals FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION	

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*