

CJ 5322 - Immigration Issues

Online

Sul Ross State University

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Course Description:

This course will focus on the history and development of immigration patterns and policies in the United States. Emphasis will be placed on policy issues related to the work of criminal justice practitioners, particularly in the post-9-11 world. Students will also be expected to analyze policy impact on various groups of immigrants.

Course Objectives

Analyze Historical and Contemporary Contexts: Understand the historical immigration patterns and their influence on contemporary views and policies regarding immigration and crime.

Critically Assess Media and Policy: Examine media portrayals and policy implications of the relationship between immigration and crime, developing informed recommendations.

Evaluate Socioeconomic and Legal Factors: Assess how socioeconomic conditions and legal frameworks, such as the "aggravated felony" concept, influence perceptions and treatment of immigrants in the criminal justice system.

Develop and Compare Immigration Policies: Compare macro- and micro-level immigration policies, and create policy briefs addressing future challenges and improvements.

Analyze Policy Impact on Immigrant Groups: Investigate the victimization of immigrants and evaluate the reliability of crime measurement methods, proposing improvements to policy impacts on various immigrant groups.

Materials

Alaniz, H., Luo, F., & Piper, D. (Eds.). (2021). *Immigration, Crime, and the Administration of Justice: Contemporary Readings* (1st ed.).

<https://titles.cognella.com/immigration-crime-and-the-administration-of-justice-9781793514363#>

Class Schedule

1	August 24-30, 2026	Historical Influence on Contemporary Views
2	August 31-September 6, 2026	Media and Political Framing
3	September 7-13, 2026	Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications
4	September 14-20, 2026	Factors Influencing Perceptions
5	September 21-27, 2026	Macro and Micro-Level Policies
6	September 28-October 4, 2026	Impact of Criminalization
7	October 5-11, 2026	Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies
8	October 12-18, 2026	Future Challenges for Civil Rights
9	October 19-25, 2026	Belonging and Immigration Policy
10	October 26-November 1, 2026	Evolution of Immigration Policy
11	November 2-8, 2026	Socio-Demographic Factors in Crime
12	November 9-15, 2026	Reliability of Crime Measurement
13	November 16-22, 2026	Effectiveness of Responses
14	November 23-29, 2026	Addressing Victimization
15	November 30-December 6, 2026	Impact of Recent Reforms
16	December 7-9, 2026	Pressing Contemporary Issues

Chapter Readings

Week	Subject Title	Chapter Readings
1	Historical Influence on Contemporary Views	Introduction: An Overview of the Immigration Issue
2	Media and Political Framing	Unit 1: Immigration and Crime Link: Evidence from Empirical Studies (Readings 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
3	Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications	Unit 1: Immigration and Crime Link: Evidence from Empirical Studies (Readings 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
4	Factors Influencing Perceptions	Unit 1: Immigration and Crime Link: Evidence from Empirical Studies (Readings 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
5	Macro and Micro-Level Policies	Unit 2: Immigration and Policy (Readings 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
6	Impact of Criminalization	Unit 2: Immigration and Policy (Readings 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
7	Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies	Unit 2: Immigration and Policy (Readings 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
8	Future Challenges for Civil Rights	Unit 3: The Future of Immigration and Crime (Readings 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
9	Belonging and Immigration Policy	Unit 3: The Future of Immigration and Crime (Readings 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
10	Evolution of Immigration Policy	Unit 3: The Future of Immigration and Crime (Readings 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
11	Socio-Demographic Factors in Crime	Unit 1: Immigration and Crime Link: Evidence from Empirical Studies (Review)
12	Reliability of Crime Measurement	Unit 1: Immigration and Crime Link: Evidence from Empirical Studies (Review)
13	Effectiveness of Responses	Unit 2: Immigration and Policy (Review)

Week	Subject Title	Chapter Readings
14	Addressing Victimization	Unit 2: Immigration and Policy (Review)
15	Impact of Recent Reforms	Unit 3: The Future of Immigration and Crime (Review)
16	Pressing Contemporary Issues	Unit 3: The Future of Immigration and Crime (Review)

Assignments

- **Week 1: Historical Influence on Contemporary Views**
 - Discussion: Historical Influence on Contemporary Views
 - Assignment: Visual Representation of Historical Influence on Contemporary Views
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- **Week 2: Media and Political Framing**
 - Discussion: Media and Political Framing
 - Assignment: Media Analysis Report
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- **Week 3: Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications**
 - Discussion: Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications
 - Assignment: Policy Recommendation Memo
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- **Week 4: Factors Influencing Perceptions**
 - Discussion: Factors Influencing Perceptions
 - Assignment: Socioeconomic Impact Assessment Presentation
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- **Week 5: Macro and Micro-Level Policies**
 - Discussion: Macro and Micro-Level Policies
 - Assignment: Policy Comparison Paper
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- **Week 6: Impact of Criminalization**
 - Discussion: Impact of Criminalization
 - Assignment: Case Study on the Immigration Industrial Complex
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- **Week 7: Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies**
 - Discussion: Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies
 - Assignment: White Paper on the Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies
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- **Week 8: Future Challenges for Civil Rights**
 - Discussion: Future Challenges for Civil Rights
 - Assignment: Policy Brief on the Future of Immigration and Civil Rights
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- **Week 9: Belonging and Immigration Policy**

- Discussion: Belonging and Immigration Policy
- Assignment: Analytical Essay on the Politics of Belonging
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- **Week 10: Evolution of Immigration Policy**
 - Discussion: Evolution of Immigration Policy
 - Assignment: Immigration Policy Simulation Exercise
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- **Week 11: Socio-Demographic Factors in Crime**
 - Discussion: Socio-Demographic Factors in Crime
 - Assignment: Literature Review on Immigrant Crime and Socio-Demographic Factors
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- **Week 12: Reliability of Crime Measurement**
 - Discussion: Reliability of Crime Measurement
 - Assignment: Infographic on the Reliability of Crime Measurement Methods
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- **Week 13: Effectiveness of Responses**
 - Discussion: Effectiveness of Responses
 - Assignment: Proposal for Improving Responses to Immigrant Crime
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- **Week 14: Addressing Victimization**
 - Discussion: Addressing Victimization
 - Assignment: Case Study on Immigrant Victimization
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- **Week 15: Impact of Recent Reforms**
 - Discussion: Impact of Recent Reforms
 - Assignment: Visual Presentation on the Impact of Recent Immigration Reforms
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- **Week 16: Pressing Contemporary Issues**
 - Discussion: Pressing Contemporary Issues
 - Assignment: Public Service Announcement on Immigration
 - Final Paper: Comprehensive Paper on Contemporary Challenges

Course Submission Guidelines

- **Discussion Posts**
 - Main Posts: Due by 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST) on Thursdays
 - Replies: Due by 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST) on Sundays
- **Assignments:** Due by 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST) on Sundays, except Week 16 work, which is due Wednesday, December 9, 2026
- **Final Research Paper:** Due Wednesday, December 9, 2026, by 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST)

Late Policy

Late discussions will not be accepted after the close of the week (11:59 PM on Sunday). Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day for a maximum of four days. After four days, the assignment will no longer be accepted. In exceptional circumstances, such as documented illness or emergency, please contact your instructor for possible accommodation

Basis for Final Grade

Course Outline: Immigration Issues in Criminal Justice

Week	Discussion Title	Assignment Title	Points	Weighted Percentage
1	Historical Influence on Contemporary Views	Visual Representation of Historical Influence on Contemporary Views	100	4%
2	Media and Political Framing	Media Analysis Report	100	4%
3	Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications	Policy Recommendation Memo	100	4%
4	Factors Influencing Perceptions	Socioeconomic Impact Assessment Presentation	100	4%
5	Macro and Micro-Level Policies	Policy Comparison Paper	100	4%
6	Impact of Criminalization	Case Study on the Immigration Industrial Complex	100	4%
7	Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies	White Paper on the Legal Implications of Aggravated Felonies	100	4%
8	Future Challenges for Civil Rights	Policy Brief on the Future of Immigration and Civil Rights	100	4%

Week	Discussion Title	Assignment Title	Points	Weighted Percentage
9	Belonging and Immigration Policy	Analytical Essay on the Politics of Belonging	100	4%
10	Evolution of Immigration Policy	Immigration Policy Simulation Exercise	100	4%
11	Socio-Demographic Factors in Crime	Literature Review on Immigrant Crime and Socio-Demographic Factors	100	4%
12	Reliability of Crime Measurement	Infographic on the Reliability of Crime Measurement Methods	100	4%
13	Effectiveness of Responses	Proposal for Improving Responses to Immigrant Crime	100	4%
14	Addressing Victimization	Case Study on Immigrant Victimization	100	4%
15	Impact of Recent Reforms	Visual Presentation on the Impact of Recent Immigration Reforms	100	4%
16	Pressing Contemporary Issues	Public Service Announcement (PSA) on Immigration	100	4%
Final Paper	-	Comprehensive Paper on Contemporary Challenges	200	12%
Weekly Discussions (16 weeks)	-	-	100/week	24%

Total: 3400 Points

Weighted Percentage: 100%

Grade Distribution



90-100%	A	Excellent
80-89%	B	Better than Average
70-79%	C	Average
60-69%	D	Below Average
Below 60%	F	Failing

Technology Requirements

Blackboard is an integral course management tool for this class. Regularly checking Blackboard is mandatory to stay updated on course developments. Throughout the course, several Blackboard features will be utilized, including email, course documents, the discussion board, grade center, external links, and SafeAssign.

This course requires significant online activity. To participate and progress, students must have:

1. Basic Computer Skills

- Sending and retrieving emails
- Opening and attaching files for course assignments
- Locating websites and resources on the internet

2. Internet Connectivity

- Regular access to the internet
- Alternative locations for internet access (e.g., on-campus library, friend's house)

Any additional reading materials, resources, and other information will be posted in Blackboard under the heading "Materials." Students will be notified on how to access this information by the instructor via email and Blackboard announcements.

Assessment Rubric

- **Assignments:** Graded with a rubric created by the instructor. Students will have access to their grades via the Blackboard grade center, along with feedback on correct responses.
- **Discussion Forums:** Graded based on a rubric, outlining expectations and point allocation. Feedback will be given alongside the grade after the instructor has evaluated the discussion.

Any student needing special assistance for any class aspect should contact the instructor immediately.

Support for Students with Disabilities

Students who need accessibility accommodations should contact the Sul Ross State University Counseling and Accessibility Services Office in Ferguson Hall 112 at 432-837-8203 or counseling@sulross.edu. Students are responsible for initiating accommodation requests.

ADA Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable disability laws. Students seeking accommodations should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or counseling@sulross.edu. More information is available at <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/>.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Online assignments should be submitted through Blackboard or SRSU email, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and protect their information. Procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Maintaining appropriate equipment and software is required according to the course's needs and requirements, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Attendance

Students are expected to regularly check Blackboard for assignments and pertinent information. The Department of Criminal Justice emphasizes that attendance is a direct predictor of student success. Therefore, CJ faculty will enforce a strict attendance policy. Students must log in for updates, assignments, discussion boards, etc. Failure to log in will result in being dropped from the course for failure to attend.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any events that would prevent participation. Students may email the instructor. Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility, and a serious attitude toward education. Many times, students seek letters of recommendation from their instructors. Prospective employers or graduate programs are all interested in a student's class attendance record.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

In the learning environment, professional attitude begins in the classroom. Students and faculty will not tolerate or commit any form of academic dishonesty. This includes:

- Copying work from any source
- Assisting or allowing another to commit academic dishonesty
- Sharing answers during a test or in submitting an assignment
- Claiming another's work, data, or creative efforts as your own
- Resubmitting graded assignments for multiple classes
- Providing false information about your academic performance to the college

To avoid plagiarism, do not “copy and paste” into assignments without using proper quotation marks and citing the source in APA format.

Unauthorized Use of AI Tools

The unauthorized use of AI tools is considered academic dishonesty. Examples include:

- Using AI to generate essay content and submitting it as your own work without proper attribution.
- Allowing AI tools to complete assignments or quizzes on your behalf.
- Copying responses generated by AI and presenting them as original ideas or answers.
- Using AI to rephrase or paraphrase your own work or another's work.

Plagiarism Rules and Resources

- **Direct Quotes:** Should be used very sparingly. Always provide a citation and use quotation marks or indented quotes for direct quotes.
- **Paraphrasing/Indirect Quotations:** Provide a citation even if you change the sentence structure or words.
- **Using Others’ Ideas:** Cite the source of ideas that are not your own, even if written in your words.
- **Collaborative Work:** Acknowledge all contributors when submitting collaborative work.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

Violations of academic policy are documented and may result in:

- Reduction in grade on the assignment
- No credit on the assignment
- A failing grade for the course
- Suspension or dismissal from the college

Dropping the Course

Students who wish to drop the class should follow the procedures outlined by Sul Ross State University. Failure to do so may result in an “F” grade. Consult the Sul Ross State University Student Handbook and/or university catalog for details.

Library

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website at 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 at srsulibrary@sulross.edu, or by phone at 432-837-8123.

In some cases, you can borrow textbooks from the library. WorldCat allows you to be linked to libraries across America. If you find the book in the system, fill out a request form at the library.

Netiquette

Netiquette guidelines govern online behavior. All participants in the course are expected to contribute to the learning environment in a respectful manner when posting information. Additionally, academic discourse is expected. The link below provides helpful reminders and can be used as a guide to assist students when posting information online in this course.

[Netiquette Guidelines](#)