

Sul Ross State University

Student Syllabus

Fall 2026

Course Name/ Number: CJ 5331: Topics in Criminal Justice: Border Security

Instructor Name: Dr. Lisa Quibodeaux (B.S. McNeese State; M.S. Univ of Alabama; Ph.D. Walden Univ)

Contact Information: E-mail: lisa.quibodeaux@sulross.edu **Office Hours:** Please email anytime

Catalog Description: Intensive study of selected issues in Criminal Justice.

(**Border Security:** For this class, we will focus on agency authorities, immigration-enforcement challenges, intelligence and technology integration, and the influence of transnational crime and smuggling networks. We also examine border infrastructure, surveillance systems, legal frameworks, humanitarian concerns, and emerging threats to develop a critical understanding of modern border-security effectiveness.)

Course Objectives:

- Understand the various definitions of “borders,” including geographical, political, and economic
 - Develop an understanding of what “border security” includes
 - Examine variety of threats to the US border
-

Required Text and Supplies: Phelps, J. R., Dailey, J. & Koenigsberg, M. (2024). *Border Security* (3rd ed.). Carolina Academic Press, LLC. (ISBN: 978-1-5310-2810-7)

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

CJ 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 the impact of court rulings, in particular those of the Supreme Court.

CJ SLO 2. The student will be able to identify and apply criminological theories and competing theory arguments.

CJ SLO 3. The 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 also designed to help the students for building various marketable skills to use in their Criminal Justice related careers and 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 & Observation

MS 3 - Multicultural Understanding

MS 4- Accessing Resources with Crime Data, the Most Current Updates of Legal Codes & Procedures

MS 5- Teamwork and Working Collaboratively

MS 6 – Analyzing the Factors Contributing to Crime

Grading Criteria: Grades will be determined by the following in this course: writing assignments, discussion boards, and individual research projects. (Eight (8) Discussion Boards @ 25 pts each; Four (4) Writing Assignments @ 50 pts each; One (1) Current Event @ 50 pts; One (1) Article Review @ 100 pts; One (1) Overview/Literature Review @ 75 pts; One (1) Research Project @100 pts)

Grading Scale:	100 - 90 = A	725 - 653 = A
	89 - 80 = B	652 - 580 = B
	79 - 70 = C	579 - 507 = C
	69 - 60 = D	506 - 434 = D
	59 - 0 = F	433 - 0 = F

Professor Policies:

Make-Up Work and Exams: It is the student's responsibility to make up any work. Please email me should any work need to be made up. I will allow work to be made up only in emergencies (instructor discretion). No exams will be made up. All missed exams will result in a 0 for a grade.

Previously Submitted Work: **NO** previously submitted work for any assignment will be accepted. A zero (0) grade will be entered for the assignment, and it will not be allowed to be made up.

Non-Original Work: **NO** work bought, copied, downloaded or AI generated will be accepted for any assignment. A grade of zero (0) will be entered for the assignment, and it will not be allowed to be made up.

ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the [Accommodation Request Form](#) located on our [website](#). Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is PO Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 79832.

Statement Regarding Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

Student Responsibilities

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 him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

SRSU 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.

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.

Libraries

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 LobolD 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.

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.

Classroom Climate of Respect

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 on the basis 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.

Supportive Statement

I am 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.

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

Professor Course Expectations:

- Remember that this is an upper-level course, therefore, upper-level work will be expected which includes proper APA format, proper grammar, sentence structure, and organizational structure
 - Review the syllabus so that you may be aware of assignments and papers; Email for any clarifications
 - Review the feedback provided for all assignments for ways to improve work (I always provide feedback for assignments)
 - Review the textbook in order to complete and submit each assessment; although you may also use outside sources, the majority of the information should be obtained from your textbook
 - Per Academic Ethics, when you offer a direct quote, or use information from a source and paraphrase the material, it must be cited and referenced per APA format
 - Review any announcements for significant information and please email me anytime!
-

Proposed Class Schedule

Week of Aug 24	Review Syllabus; Obtain book; Introduce yourself per DB
Week of Aug 31	Review Chapter 1
Week of Sept 7	Review Chapter 2
Week of Sept 14	Review Chapter 3
Week of Sept 21	Review Chapter 4
Week of Sept 28	Review Chapter 5
Week of Oct 5	Review Chapter 6
Week of Oct 12	Overview/Literature Review
Week of Oct 19	Review Chapter 7
Week of Oct 26	Review Chapter 8
Week of Nov 2	Review Chapter 9
Week of Nov 9	Research Project
Week of Nov 16	Review Chapter 10
Week of Nov 23	Review Chapter 11
Week of Nov 30	Review Chapter 12

Assignment Due Dates

Writing Assignment 1 (Ch. 1)	Sept 6
Current Event	Sept 20
Writing Assignment 2 (Ch. 4)	Sept 27
Article Review	Oct 4
Overview/Lit Review	Oct 18
Writing Assignment 3 (Ch.7)	Oct 25
Writing Assignment 4 (Ch. 9)	Nov 8
Research Project	Nov 15

Discussion Board Due Dates

DB Intro.	Aug 30	DB 4 (ch 7)	Oct 25
DB1 (ch 2)	Sept 13	DB 5 (ch 10)	Nov 22
DB2 (ch 4)	Sept 27	DB 6 (ch 11)	Nov 29
DB3 (ch 6)	Oct 11	DB Concl.	Dec 6

Discussion boards: Most weeks, there will be a discussion question posted per each Unit. Please post your original response to the boards by **Wednesdays** of each week. This response needs to contribute in a significant way to the topics and can include information from the Readings as well as personal experience and knowledge from other courses, academic sources, and employment. All responses to others are due by midnights on **Sundays**.

Original posts should be at least 200 words in length. After the original post is made, students are required to post to at least **one** other person per week for credit. This response must be at least a paragraph and should not consist of an, "I agree." When any source is used for collaboration, it must be cited, and the source listed at the end of the post in APA format.

Writing Assignments – selected chapters will have writing assignments with fixed due dates. Assignments will NOT be accepted after due dates. These writing assignments are to be **typed, adhere to each length per assignment**, double spaced with 1-inch margin, 11 font, ***the number of sources required***, internal citations, title page, and reference page per APA format.

These must be in Word document format. Remember that **no more than 15%** of a paper should be cited; the majority of papers should consist of your thoughts and reactions to the issues being discussed. Respond to all questions in paragraph format. (One of the required sources CAN be your textbook; the other must be academic in nature – no WIKIPEDIA, ENCYCLOPEDIA, or any –PEDIA).

Writing Assignment 1 – Barriers, Boundaries, and Borders (Ch 1)

Borders are often viewed as fixed geographic lines; however, this chapter demonstrates that borders are also political, economic, cultural, and social constructs.

- Reflect on how the concept of a border has evolved in the modern era.
- Discuss whether globalization, international trade, migration, and digital technologies have strengthened or weakened the importance of national borders.
- Consider the relationship between sovereignty and border control, and evaluate whether governments can effectively maintain security while facilitating the movement of people, goods, and information.
- In your reflection, connect the chapter concepts to a contemporary border issue and discuss how your understanding of borders has changed as a result of the Reviewing.

This assignment should be **NO LESS than TWO FULL pages of content and contain TWO sources**. Include citations to sources, a title page, and a reference page.

Writing Assignment 2 – Physical Border Security (Ch 4)

Physical barriers remain one of the most visible and controversial components of border security.

- Reflect on the role that walls, fences, and other physical barriers play in contemporary border management.
- Evaluate their effectiveness as security tools while considering political, humanitarian, economic, and environmental consequences.
- Discuss whether physical barriers serve practical security functions, symbolic political functions, or both.
- Based on your analysis, explain whether investments in physical infrastructure should remain a major component of border security strategy.

This assignment should be **NO LESS than TWO FULL pages of content and contain TWO sources**. Include citations to sources, a title page, and a reference page.

Writing Assignment 3 - Human Trafficking and Population Migrations (Ch 7)

Migration and human trafficking present complex challenges that require governments to balance security concerns with humanitarian responsibilities.

- Reflect on the relationship between border security, migration, and human rights.
- Discuss the ethical challenges policymakers face when responding to migration crises and trafficking networks.
- Evaluate whether current policies adequately address the needs of vulnerable populations while maintaining national security.

- How should governments balance compassion, legal obligations, and security concerns when making migration policy decisions?

This assignment should be **NO LESS than TWO FULL pages of content and contain TWO sources**. Include citations to sources, a title page, and a reference page.

Writing Assignment 4 – Transportation Security (Ch 9)

Modern transportation systems are essential to economic growth and social connectivity, yet they also present significant security risks.

- Reflect on the role transportation security plays within the broader homeland security enterprise.
- Evaluate how agencies balance efficiency, privacy, cost, and security when developing transportation policies.
- Consider the increasing use of technology, data analytics, and artificial intelligence in transportation security operations.
- Discuss which transportation security challenge you believe will be most significant in the next decade and explain why.

This assignment should be **NO LESS than TWO FULL pages of content and contain TWO sources**. Include citations to sources, a title page, and a reference page.

Current Event: Select a local, state, or national news story regarding a current US border security issue within the last 6 months. It must be **specific, factual, and clearly connected to border security operations or policy**. Write a two-page report to include the following sections and headings. Please include a title page and a reference page listing the source in correct APA format.

- **Summary** -- what happened; who was involved; when and where it occurred; why it matters
- **Analysis** -- what this event reveals about current border security challenges; any operational, legal, or policy issues raised; whether the response seems effective; how this event compares to trends reviewed in the text
- **Lessons Learned** – how does this event relate to topics/issues discussed in text, such as border enforcement strategies; technology and surveillance; immigration processes; smuggling networks; humanitarian issues; interagency coordination, etc.

Article Reviews: These are critical evaluations of a specific research topic based on previously published research that stimulates new ideas for future research. The article review is designed to deepen your analytical skills, strengthen your understanding of contemporary border security issues, and connect scholarly research to operational, legal, and policy frameworks discussed in class.

Locate a scholarly article, of your choice published within the last 5 years that addresses a topic relevant to border security, such as the following. Write a two-page report to include the following sections and headings. Please include a title page and a reference page listing the source in correct APA format.

- Immigration enforcement and policy;
- Border technology and surveillance;
- Transnational crime, trafficking, or smuggling;
- Homeland security strategy;
- International border governance;

- Legal authorities and constitutional considerations

-
- **Summary** -- what the article is about; the main question it tries to answer; how the author studied the issue; the key findings
 - **Analysis** -- what the author explains well; what feels unclear, biased, or unsupported; whether the evidence is strong; how the article compares to what you've learned about border security
 - **Application** -- why the topic matters; how the findings could help improve operations or policy; any challenges in applying the ideas; what you think agencies should consider moving forward
-

Research Project

There will be a research project in this class – topics are listed below, as well as the required format. There are two parts to the research project: (1) Topic Overview/Literature Review; (2) Final Project.

Each will be typed, **adhere to specific requirements listed below**, double-spaced, 1-inch margin, 11 Times New Roman font, include internal citations, title page, and reference page as per 7th edition APA format.

Topic Overview/Literature Review – Due Oct 18

For this assignment, you will submit a topic overview and literature review of your research topic.

- **Topic Overview.** In this section, you must identify the topic for your project, a brief overview of the topic, and the reason you chose this specific topic.
- **Literature Review.** This section should include at least **four academic sources** that you plan to use for this paper. Give a brief description of each source **and** describe why it is relevant to your chosen topic. List the source (in correct APA format) then the description. **Each source evaluation should be offered in its own paragraph.** Also, only use academic sources; refrain from sources such as Wikipedia, Encyclopedia, etc. There are examples listed in the Announcements section of the class.

This Topic Overview and Literature Review should be at least **two (2) pages** in length, not counting title and reference page. Include headings of Topic Overview and Literature Review. Your paper must be in correct APA format, include internal citations, a title page and reference page. Paper should be typed, double spaced, using 11-12 Times New Roman Font.

Final Research Project – Due Nov 15

For the final paper, include the information from the overview and literature review. Add the following sections and information about the selected topic. Paper **MUST INCLUDE** Headings (Overview; Literature Review; Introduction; Background; Current Issues; Analysis; Solutions; Conclusion)

Introduction

- Introduce the topic
- Explain why it matters for U.S. border security
- State the main argument or focus of the paper

Background / Key Facts

- Essential history or context
- Key laws, policies, agencies, or events
- What led to the current situation

Current Issues / Present-Day Situation

- What is happening right now with this topic
- Recent data, trends, or examples
- The main challenges or debates today

Analysis

- What is working well
- What is NOT working
- Strengths and weaknesses of current approaches
- Operational, legal, or ethical concerns
- What experts or research say

Solutions or Future Outlook

- Realistic improvements or policy options
- New strategies or technologies
- Potential obstacles or limitations
- What the future might look like

Conclusion

- Restate the main point
- Summarize the key findings
- Explain why the topic matters moving forward

The paper should be APA format, to include a title page, internal citations, and reference page. Total content of the paper should be at **least 6-7 pages**, to include the previous overview and literature review, but **not to include the title or reference page**.

At least **two (2) additional** sources should be included in addition to the original four from the literature review, for at least **six sources**. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, 11-12 Times New Roman Font.

Remember that no more than 10-15% percent of a paper should be direct citations. You may not re-use a paper that you have previously submitted in another course. Also, only use academic sources; refrain from sources such as Wikipedia, Encyclopedia, etc...

The paper should be APA format, to include a title page, internal citations, and reference page and include the following.

- Content should be at least 6-7 pages, to include the overview and literature review, but not to include the title or reference page.
 - Include at least **two (2) more** sources in addition to the original four from the literature review, for at least **six (6)** sources for the entire paper.
 - Paper should be typed, double-spaced, 11-12 Times New Roman Font.
 - Include the required headings
-

Approved Topics

- **How Border Security Policies Have Changed Since 9/11**
 - **The Effectiveness of Border Walls Along the U.S.–Mexico Border**
 - **Addressing the Root Causes of Migration from Central America**
 - **Comparing Security Threats at the U.S.–Canada and U.S.–Mexico Borders**
 - **Climate Change as a Driver of Future Migration and Border Challenges**
 - **Balancing Humanitarian Obligations and Border Enforcement**
 - **Refugee Crises and Their Impact on Border Security Policy**
 - **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Border Security**
 - **Privacy Concerns Associated with Border Surveillance Technologies**
 - **The Fentanyl Crisis and the Role of Border Security**
 - **Maritime Border Security and the Prevention of Illegal Trafficking**
-

****Syllabus is subject to change****