

2026 Fall CJ 5365 Seminar in Cybercrime Investigations
Course Syllabus

Sul Ross State University
The Homeland Security and Criminal Justice Department

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CJ 5365 Seminar in Cybercrime Investigations

- This course surveys the fundamentals of cybercrime, including key topics and investigative techniques.
- The course builds on these foundations by introducing additional tools and techniques to expand students' cybercrime investigation toolbox.
- This graduate-level seminar focuses on the investigation of cybercrimes, with particular emphasis on Internet fraud schemes, e-commerce, and dark web-related criminal activity. The course also examines legal issues, investigative techniques and strategies, and the implications of investigations across different jurisdictions and their limitations.
- Students will also learn the basics of computer security and digital forensics, beginning with networking fundamentals. The course covers the fundamentals of digital forensics and malware analysis, including the core concepts, techniques, and methodologies used in cybersecurity investigations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

When you finish this course, you will know how to:

- Define and describe the nature and scope of cybercrime
- Identify the methods and techniques used by cybercriminals
- Analyze and discuss the challenges in investigating and combatting cybercrime
- Describe the process for collecting and preserving digital evidence
- Apply current cybercrime investigation techniques using hands-on activities

INSTRUCTOR INFO

[Said Varlioglu](#)

Email: msv20iy@sulross.edu

Office Hours: Video Calls by appointment

COURSE CALENDAR:

Module	Begin Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Week 1	- Introduction to Cybercrime Investigations - The Basics of Computer Networks	- Discussion Board 1 - Module 1 Assignment
2	Week 2	- Email Hacking Investigations - Examination of Sign-In Logs and Inbox-Forwarding Rules	- Discussion Board 2 - Module 2 Assignment
3	Week 3	- Phishing Email Investigations - Email Header Analysis	- Discussion Board 3 - Module 3 Assignment
4	Week 4	- Ransomware Investigations - Website Hacking Investigations	- Discussion Board 4 - Module 4 Assignment
5	Week 5	- Open-Source Investigations (OSINT) in Cybercrime	- Discussion Board 5 - Module 5 Assignment

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6	Week 6	- VPN, Proxy and TOR Challenges in Investigations - Dark Web Investigations	- Discussion Board 6 - Module 6 Assignment
7	Week 7	- Bank Card Skimming and Bank Account Hacking Investigations	- Discussion Board 7 - Module 7 Assignment
-	-	SEMESTER BREAK	No Assignment
8	Week 8	- Online Child Abuse Investigations	- Discussion Board 8 - Module 8 Assignment
9	Week 9	- Introduction to Digital Forensics and Chain of Custody	- Discussion Board 9 - Module 9 Assignment
10	Week 10	- Basics of File Metadata	- Discussion Board 10 - Module 10 Assignment
11	Week 11	- Windows Memory Forensics Basics	- Discussion Board 11 - Module 11 Assignment
12	Week 12	- Windows OS Forensics Basics	- Discussion Board 12 - Module 12 Assignment
13	Week 13	- macOS Forensics Basics	- Discussion Board 13 - Module 13 Assignment
14	Week 14	- Malware Analysis Basics	- Discussion Board 14 - Module 14 Assignment
-	-	- Final Week – Course Evaluation - PowerPoint Presentations as the Final Assignment	- Course Evaluation - Final Presentation

PERSONAL COMPUTER REQUIREMENT

You are expected to have a personal computer during the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Instructor Communication

Email is the best way to reach me. We can also meet in a video call if you need. The zoom link is above. As an Adjunct Instructor, I do not have an office on campus.

Grading

Your grade in this course will consist of the following categories.

Grading Scale:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- <60 = F

Grade Book Item	Weights
Assignments	70%
Discussion Boards	20%
Final Presentation	10%
Total	100%

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SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

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, www.library.sulross.edu. 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), or phone (432-837-8123).

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 the University and reach the articles on the reading list.

Syllabus is subject to updates and changes always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) 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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND BLACKBOARD HELP DESK

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 <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105. For Blackboard help visit <https://www.sulross.edu/bb> or call 432-837-8523 (M-F 09:00 am-06:00 pm). You can get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>