

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
CJ/CRIM 4318 ADVANCED HOMELAND SECURITY
FALL 2026
SYLLABUS

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Class hours: Online

Classroom: Online

Office hours: 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 as soon as I can.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Gaines, L.K., Kremling, J. & Kappeler, V.E. (2019). Homeland Security and Terrorism (2nd Ed). Pearson ISBN 978-0-13-454917-0

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Martin, G. (2020). Understanding Homeland Security. Sage Publishing

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Students who are taking Advanced Homeland Security course will have a chance to examine the different aspects of homeland security from a variety of perspectives. More specifically during the course we will examine the concept, history, and definition of homeland security; the major issues that face homeland security, roles of the key institutions of homeland security, legal aspects of homeland security, terrorism and homeland security, border security and immigration, policing and homeland security will be examined.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to.

SLO1: Students will understand the contemporary concept of Homeland Security

SLO2: Students will analyze the organizational role, responsibilities, and strategies of homeland security

SLO3: Students will describe the concept of protection of critical infrastructure

SLO4: Students will explain the different roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, with regard to national security

SLO 5: Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge on the definition of terrorism and counter terrorism strategies

MARKETABLE SKILLS:

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. Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

MS 2- Critical Thinking and Observation. Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

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

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Given that this is a fully online course; you cannot attend class in a traditional sense. However, students are expected to log into the class at the earliest opportunity to check the class web site every day for announcements. Weekly reaction papers and quizzes are a required part of class participation.

GRADING:

There will be 1 midterm exam, 1 final exam, weekly quizzes and reaction papers throughout the semester. Questions for exams and quizzes will be drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on Blackboard. The midterm exam and final exam will be worth 200 points each. There will be no makeup exam. Every week there will be a quiz for the related chapter(s). Each quiz will worth 10 points. The total grade will be 140 for all quizzes. Weekly reaction papers will be 10 points each. The total grade for papers will be 140.

Midterm Exam	200 pts
Weekly Quizzes	140 pts (14 quizzes, 10 points each)
Reaction papers	140 pts (14 papers, 10 points each)
Final Exam	200 pts
Total	680 pts

Scale:

A 680-590 B 589-500 C 499-410 D 409-320 F 319 & below

REACTION PAPERS (10 POINTS EACH)

You will write a reaction paper every week. Each paper must be 1 page and 1.5-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. Reaction papers will be related to the reading of the week. When there is more than one reading assignment, then the students **SHOULD READ ALL REQUIRED READINGS BUT WRITE REACTION PAPER ON ONE OF THEM.** A reaction paper is not a summary; rather, it should include your perspective, ideas, and critique about the reading. The due dates for the reaction papers will be Sunday at 11:59 pm each week.

WEEKLY QUIZZES (10 POINTS EACH)

You will take a quiz every week to measure the knowledge of the week's required readings. The questions will be posted on Friday at 1:00 pm and the due date will be Sunday at 11:59 pm every week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Sul Ross State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Sul Ross Student Code of Conduct.” Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found on the University website.

Sul Ross State University 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.

Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, the following activities: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, and falsifying academic records.

Besides, academic dishonesty can include both actions and omissions to act in regard to academic exercises and activities. Cheating is defined here as the obtaining of information (electronic or otherwise) during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, notes, or other sources of information prior to or during an examination, the unauthorized use of books, the removal of faculty examination materials, the alteration of documents or records, or actions identifiable as occurring with the intent to defraud or use under false pretenses. Collusion is defined here as helping other students engage in acts of academic dishonesty, whether the student involved obtains any direct academic advantage from these acts. Plagiarism is defined here as the submission of the ideas, words, or artistic productions of another, without giving due credit or when attempting to falsely represent them as one’s own. See [SRSU Library Teaching and Learning Guides](#) for more information.

POLICY ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS:

In this course, you are not required to use any form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, etc. However, if you choose to use any AI tools as part of your assignments—other than for brainstorming, proofreading, etc.—you must provide proper citation. We use APA citation format in all of our CJ courses. For more information about proper APA citation, please visit [SRSU Library Teaching and Learning Guides](#).

Using AI tools to complete any assignment without proper citation violates academic integrity and will be considered a form of plagiarism, which is a violation of the SRSU Academic Honesty Policy under the [Student Handbook](#). If you are unsure whether something is considered an AI tool, please check with your instructor.

You are permitted to use AI tools for spell check, grammar check, and proofreading. Rephrasing sentences or reorganizing paragraphs you have drafted yourself is also allowed. However, remember that the most important part is that all work you submit must be your own. You should never include anything in your assignment that was not written directly by you without proper citation. DO NOT copy and paste directly from any AI tools.

APA STYLE:

This course will use the American Psychological Association (APA) formatting and style guide for all written assignments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of APA a couple 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 of the course academic honesty standards. See [SRSU Library Teaching and Learning Guides](#) for help with APA.

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](#) 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 432-837-8888 (M-F 08:00 am-05:00 pm).

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as 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 about 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

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

LATE ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICY:

Students are supposed to finish their coursework on time and assignments must be submitted before the deadlines. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excuse that is recognized by the university.

SERVICE STATEMENT:

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of pandemics, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could 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 an inclusive 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

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 themselves with the requirements of such laws.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	Aug 24-30	Introduction of Syllabus and course requirements Definition of Homeland Security	Course syllabus (blackboard) & Gaines Chapter 1 QUIZ 1 PAPER 1
2	Aug 31 - Sep 06	Law and Agencies of American Homeland Security System	Gaines - Chapters 2-4 QUIZ 2 PAPER 2
3	Sep 8-13	National Infrastructure Protection	Gaines - Chapter 3 QUIZ 3 PAPER 3
4	Sep 14 - 20	Homeland Security and Terrorism	Gaines - Chapter 5 QUIZ 4 PAPER 4
5	Sep 21 - 27	Types of Terrorist Organizations	Gaines - Chapter 6 QUIZ 5 PAPER 5
6	Sep 28 - Oct 4	Homeland Security and Transnational Organized Crime	Gaines - Chapter 7 QUIZ 6 PAPER 6
7	Oct 5 - 11	Intelligence and Counter Intelligence of Terrorism	Gaines - Chapter 8 QUIZ 7 PAPER 7
8	Oct 12 - 18	Homeland Security and WMDs MIDTERM EXAM	Gaines - Chapter 9 QUIZ 8 PAPER 8
9	Oct 19 - 25	Cybercrime and Homeland Security	Gaines - Chapter 10 QUIZ 9 PAPER 9
10	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Online extremism, cyberterrorism, and cyber warfare	Holt, et al 2017 ch 8 - Additional Readings on Blackboard QUIZ 10 PAPER 10
11	Nov 2 - 8	Terrorism Financing	Gaines - Chapter 11 QUIZ 11 PAPER 11
12	Nov 9 - 15	Border Security and Immigration	Gaines - Chapter 12 QUIZ 12 PAPER 12
13	Nov 16 - 22	Response to Threats	Gaines - Chapter 13 QUIZ 13 PAPER 13
14	Nov 23 - 29 Nov 25 - 27	Homeland Security and Policing THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	Gaines - Chapter 14 QUIZ 14

			PAPER 14
15	Nov 30 – Dec 3	FINAL EXAM	

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.