

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRIJ 2323 (3:3:0)

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| LEGAL ASPECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT |
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Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology

Department of Professional Services & Energy

Reese Center Campus

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

**Spring 2018**

## COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: CRIJ 2323 LEGAL ASPECTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

INSTRUCTOR: John A. Barnes

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OFFICE HOURS: Posted on office door or by appointment only.  
SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

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### I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

- A. Course Description: This course is an exploration of police authority. Topics include responsibilities and constitutional restraints, law of arrest, search and seizure, and police liability. Emphasis will be placed on the controversial issues of police authority, liability, responsibility and constitutional restraints placed on the criminal justice professionals.
- B. Course Learning Outcomes: The student will define police authority and explain the responsibilities and constitutional restraints as enumerated in the Texas Constitution, United States Constitution, and Bill of rights. The student will outline the law of arrest, search and seizure developed through court decisions and describe the criminal and civil liability that results from improper acts and/or the failure to act.

Specific goals/objectives of this course are to:

- Understand the laws of arrest, search and seizure in order that an officer can be able to conduct him- or herself in a legal manner;
- Develop critical thinking skills relative to police procedural activities that ensure that due process of law practices are followed;
- Reduce the possibility that officers will be involved in civil liability suits that might evolve from unlawful or inappropriate actions;
- Develop a clear understanding of the concepts of police authority, responsibility, limitations on conduct, and constitutional restraints.

- C. Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of:
- Laws of arrest, search, and seizure necessary to effect an arrest and bring the evidence into a court of law;
  - Legal and constitutional restraints placed upon the laws of arrest, search and seizure;
  - Terms, concepts, and values associated with the legality and constitutionality of warrants.
- D. Academic Integrity: It is the aim of the Law Enforcement faculty of South Plains Colleges to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see "Academic Integrity" as well as "Student Conduct" sections in college catalog). At times, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS competencies C-9 through C-14. If you have a question as to whether you may work with other students on any assignment, ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR.
- E. SCANS and Foundation Skills. This course covers SCANS Occupational Competencies C-6,7,15,19 and Foundation Skills F-1,5,7,8, & 11.
- F. Verification of Workplace Competencies. This course will transfer to a senior level institution that offers a Criminal Justice or related degree.

## II. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Textbook:  
Del Carmen, Rolando V., Hemmens, Craig. *Criminal Procedure: Law and Practice*. Tenth Edition. Cengage Publishing.
- B. Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the

Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. Students must attend and/or participate in all classes for which financial aid is awarded. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the Student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

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- C. Assignment Policy. All required work must be turned in on time in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD ASSIGNED. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the work is acceptable.
- D. Grading Policy/Procedure and/or methods of evaluation. An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the course. The student's grade will be determined by adding the total points earned during the semester from examinations and assignments. (Note: See the General College Catalog "Grade and Reports" for explanation of grades and grade point averages.) Points will be determined in accordance with the following outline:

|                               |       |             |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|
|                               | TOTAL |             |
| *15 Quizzes @ 30 points each= | 450   | points      |
| Attendance.....               | 50    | points      |
| Semester Project.....         | 250   | points      |
| Mid-Term Examination.....     | 250   | points      |
| **Final Examination.....      | 250   | points      |
| Total Points Possible.....    |       | 1000 points |

\*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

\*\* Final Examination is required for all students.

#### GRADING GUIDELINE:

| Total Points Accumulated | = | Grade Earned |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1000 to 900 points       | = | A            |
| 899 to 800 points        | = | B            |
| 799 to 700 points        | = | C            |
| 699 to 600 points        | = | D            |
| 599 or fewer             | = | F            |

- E. Special Requirements--Safety Policy. Students should adhere to safety standards established in the SPC Student Handbook. Students in law enforcement/criminal justice must follow all safe practices in the Firing Range and other laboratory work areas. Further, chemical hazards and appropriate MSDS safety practices will be covered by the instructor during the first class session if potential for exposure exists.

### III. COURSE OUTLINE

Chapter 1: The Court System, Sources of Rights, and Fundamental Principals

Chapter 2: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process

Chapter 3: Probably Cause and Reasonable Suspicion

Chapter 4: The Exclusionary Rule

Chapter 5: Stop and Frisk and Stationhouse Detention

Chapter 6: Arrests and Use of Force

Chapter 7: Searches and Seizures of Things

Chapter 8: Motor Vehicle Stops, Searches, and Inventories

Chapter 9: Plain View, Open Fields, Abandonment, and Border Searches

Chapter 10: Lineups and Other Means of Pretrial Identification

Chapter 11: Confessions and Admissions : *Miranda v. Arizona*

Chapter 12: Basic Constitutional Rights of the Accused During Trial

Chapter 13: Sentencing, the Death Penalty, and Other Forms of Punishment

Chapter 14: Legal Liabilities of Law Enforcement Officers

## Chapter 15: Electronic Surveillance and the War on Terror

### IV. ADA Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) [716-4606](tel:716-4606), or Levelland (Student Services Building) [716-2577](tel:716-2577).