

COURSE SYLLABUS

CJLE 1333 (3:3:0)

TRAFFIC LAW AND INVESTIGATION

Law Enforcement Technology

Department of Professional Services & Energy

Technical Education Division

Levelland & Reese Center Campuses

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Fall 2017

Campuses: Levelland

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: CJLE 1333 Traffic Law & Investigation

INSTRUCTOR: Lance Scott, Ph.D.

OFFICE LOCATION AND PHONE/E-MAIL: Office Number: LE105
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OFFICE HOURS: Posted on office door.

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

- A. Course Description: Students in this class receive instruction in the basic principles of traffic control, traffic law enforcement, court procedures, and traffic law. Emphasis is placed on the need for a professional approach in dealing with traffic law violators and the police role in accident investigation and traffic supervision.
- B. Course Learning Outcomes: The student will identify background and underlying principles of the traffic law enforcement effort; describe the legal requirements that govern and control the making and enforcement of criminal laws and traffic laws in particular; explain the procedures to maximize the individual officer's personal safety during a stop, particularly in a criminal situation; explain the factors that influence the officer and violator during their face-to-face contact; explain the importance of meeting the objectives of a traffic program, i.e., reduction of traffic fatalities and prosecution of traffic offenses; and identify the various enforcement activities that lead to achieving an effective traffic program.

Specific goals/objectives of this course are to:

- Examine the police role in the enforcement of traffic laws;
- Explore the police role in investigating traffic accidents;
- Develop concepts of traffic planning, education, and analysis of special problems;
- Present proper techniques of traffic direction and control.

- 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:
- officer-violator relations during the traffic stop;
 - accepted procedures which maximize the officer's personal safety during traffic stops;
 - the techniques of traffic control and direction;
 - accident investigation procedures and techniques;
 - the Texas Motor Vehicle Codes.
- 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-1,4,5,6,9,11,15,16,19 and Foundation Skills F-3,4,5,7,8,10,14,15,16, and 17.
- F. **Verification of Workplace Competencies.** Successful completion of this course meets one of the requirements to achieve an enhanced skills certificate in law enforcement technology at South Plains College.
- G. **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).
- H. **Diversity Statement:** Instructors in the program will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourage engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. Promoting diversity and intellectual exchange will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be so that each person may live in harmony with others.

II. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Textbook and Other Materials: Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, LexisNexis, 2015-2016 Edition.

- B. Attendance Policy. The South Plains College attendance policy is stated in the General Catalog. Punctual and regular attendance in class is required of all law enforcement/criminal justice students. Each student is responsible for all class work covered while he or she was not in class. At the discretion of the instructor, a student may complete make-up work assignments for unavoidable absences. The instructor uses discretion to administer a "X" or "F" grade when a student has excessive absences. In the event a student is not able to complete course work, he or she is expected to take initiative to initiate a student withdrawal notice that results in a "W" grade when completed before the last college "drop date." All students must complete or remain in compliance with TASP requirements.

- 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
*3 Major Exams @ 100 points each =	300 points
9 Quizzes @ 100 points each =	900 points
Attendance and Participation	100 points
**Final Examination.....	100 points
 Total Points Possible.....	 1400 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
1260 to 1400 points	=	A
1120 to 1259 points	=	B

980 to 1119 points	=	C
840 to 979 points	=	D
839 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

- A. Introduction to Traffic Law
1. The officer's role in traffic law enforcement
 2. The officer's role in accident investigation
 3. Traffic Direction and Control
- B. Texas Transportation Code
1. Definitions
 2. Rules of the Road
 3. Driver License
 4. Equipment violations
 5. DWI and Intoxication Manslaughter
 6. Miscellaneous Traffic Laws
- C. Accident Investigation
1. Laws relating to collisions
 2. Preliminary investigation
 3. Causes and factors involved in collision
 4. Interview of drivers and witnesses
 5. Accident scene diagram
 6. Assessing violation(s) and citations
 7. Accident reports
 8. Court room testimony
- D. Traffic Management
1. Police and traffic management
 2. Public relations and social education
 3. Police and community response

- IV. ACCOMMODATIONS - South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age (SPC Equal Opportunity Policy--General Catalog). Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be

made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator.