



Course Title:	Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement
Course Number:	CRIJ 2323
Course Section:	002
Department:	Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Technology
Campus:	Levelland
Instructor	Ray Scifres
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SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

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.

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.

E. Blackboard: Students will utilize the South Plains College's Blackboard system for some of the assigned coursework. All students enrolled in the course have access to the system.

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. Students will be subject to withdrawal upon missing four consecutive class meetings or five total class meetings during the semester. 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.

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

Quiz	500 points
Mid-Term Examination	150 points
Research Paper	200 points
Final Examination	150 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

900 to 1000 points = A

800 to 899 points = B

700 to 799 points = C

600 to 699 points = D

599 or fewer = F

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may earn up to 50 points extra credit for completion of an additional research project. Students may complete a 500-750 word paper referencing a current criminal justice-related issue in the news. Students must use three (3) sources outside the textbook, and the paper must be properly formatted in APA Style (6th Edition).

QUIZZES: Students will complete eleven (11) quizzes using the Blackboard system. During the week a quiz is assigned, the quiz will open following the Thursday class session and will close at 11:59 PM on Saturday of that same week. This means the student will have approximately two and one-half (2 ½) days to complete the quiz. The instructor will not re-open the quiz for any reason. Quizzes will cover the reading material and lecture for the week, and will consist of multiple choice, and/or true/false questions. The quiz will be timed and will close at the end of the time limit whether or not the student has completed the quiz. A score of Zero “0” will be assessed for any quiz that is not completed within the time limit.

The lowest quiz grade for each student will be dropped, which leaves ten (10) quizzes to be graded.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION: Students will complete a 75 question examination in class using a “Scan-Tron” form. The examination will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions, and will consist of questions related to the reading material and lectures covered up to the test date. The test must be completed within the normal class period for the day.

RESEARCH PAPER: Each student will complete a research paper of an approved topic within the legal aspects of law enforcement. Each student will submit a topic to be approved by the instructor. The format for the paper will be properly styled in APA format (6th Edition), be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with one inch margins, and double spaced. A sample paper may be viewed on the Blackboard system for the course. The length will be between 1500-2000 words, and the student must use a minimum of five (5) references other than the textbook.

All papers will be scanned into SafeAssign to verify originality and to ensure there is no intentional plagiarism. **If there is evidence of plagiarism, the instructor will discuss the issues with the student and a zero may be assigned for the paper.** *Students are strongly*

encouraged to speak with the instructor should they have any questions regarding the assignment.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Students will complete a 75 question examination in class using the “Scan-Tron” form. The examination will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions, and will contain questions related to the reading assignments and lectures for all material between the mid-term and the final date of class. The final examination is NOT a comprehensive examination. The test must be completed within the normal designated final class period.

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

Date	Reading Assignment	Discussion	Assignments
Week of 8/26 – Week 1	CH. 1 – The Court System, Sources of Rights, and Fundamental Principles	Introduction, syllabus	Week 1 Quiz
Week of 9/2 – Week 2	CH. 2 – Overview of Criminal Justice Process		Week 2 Quiz
Week of 9/9 – Week 3	CH. 3 – Probable Cause and Reasonable Suspicion		Week 3 Quiz
Week of 9/16 – Week 4	CH. 7 – Searches and Seizures of Things		
Week of 9/23 – Week 5	CH. 8 – Motor Vehicle Stops, Searches, and Inventories		Week 5 Quiz
Week of 9/30 – Week 6	CH. 9 – Plain View, Open Fields, Abandonment, and Border Searches		Week 6 Quiz
Week of 10/7 – Week 7	CH. 4 – The Exclusionary Rule		Week 7 Quiz
Week of 10/14 – Week 8	MID TERM EXAMINATION		
Week of 10/21 – Week 9	CH. 5 – Stop and Frisk, and Stationhouse Detentions		
Week of 10/28 – Week 10	CH. 6 – Arrests and Use of Force		Week 10 Quiz
Week of 11/4 – Week 11	RESEARCH PAPER DUE 11/7/2019		

Week of 11/11 – Week 12	CH. 11 – Confessions and Admissions		Week 12 Quiz
Week of 11/18 – Week 13	CH. 12 – Basic Constitutional Rights of the Accused at Trial		Week 13 Quiz
Week of 11/25 – Week 14	CH. 13 – Sentencing, the Death Penalty, and Other Punishment		Week 14 Quiz
Week of 12/2 – Week 15	CH. 14 – Legal Liabilities of Officers		Week 15 Quiz
Week of 12/9 – Week 16	FINAL EXAMINATION		

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, or Levelland (Student Services Building) 716-2577