

The University of Texas at El Paso Criminal Justice Department

Course Details	
Course Title	Crime on U.S.-Mexico Border
Course Number	CRIJ 3351
Semester	Fall 2017
Course Delivery	100% On-Line
Instructor	Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.
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I will respond to all emails and voice mails within 24 hours of receipt. Please keep in mind I live in the Mountain Standard Time (MST) zone.

Course Description

This course focuses on the impact of globalization on crime and border security. Special emphasis is placed on human, drug, and arms trafficking along the U.S.-Mexico border. Other serious crime such as fraud, identity theft, and cybercrime are also explored. This course reviews current and past strategies for maintaining border security and limiting the flow of criminal activity into the United States.

Learning Management System: All course content is delivered via the UTEP Blackboard course management system. You can view all materials related to this course on Blackboard (except for the textbook).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Distance education demands a considerable amount of self-discipline and motivation. You will enjoy a flexibility to work and study at times that fit your personal schedule; however, you must still meet weekly course deadlines. If you feel you require the structure of a classroom in order to stay engaged, then this class is not for you. Setting up regular times to sit down and focus your attention on the course materials is essential to success. We realize you are balancing many issues in your life and have chosen distance learning as an option to fit your individual circumstances.

Course Objectives

After completion of the course students will be able to:

- CO-1:** Define security comprehensively as it refers to the border region, giving consideration to distinctions between national, homeland, and human security
- CO-2:** Identify the missions of law enforcement charged with protecting the border region, as well as discussion of their chain of command and authority
- CO-3:** Understand the role of the media and community activism on border policy
- CO-4:** Describe the contribution of intelligence analysis to border security
- CO-5:** Describe the motivation and tactics of drug cartels and associated criminal gangs
- CO-6:** Describe various other forms of criminal activity along both the Mexican and Canadian border regions
- CO-7:** Identify the key elements of a comprehensive and effective border strategy that addresses pertinent economic, political, and social factors

Required Reading

There is one textbook required for this course. Students should purchase this book and read the relevant sections as assigned. All of the core texts/reading assignments have to be read in their entirety by the end of the class. Weekly assignments are based on this textbook and other reading as assigned. You can expect to have 25 to 40 pages of readings per week and it is expected that you read the material prior to the class assignment.

Note: There will be other materials, including U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports, which will be extensively utilized for this course and will be made available by the instructor.

- Willis, H.H., Predd, J.B. Davis, P.K. & Brown, W.P. (2010). *Measuring the Effectiveness of Border Security Between Ports-of-Entry*. RAND Corporation. ISBN-13: 978-0833049773.

Evaluation Procedures (Requirements)

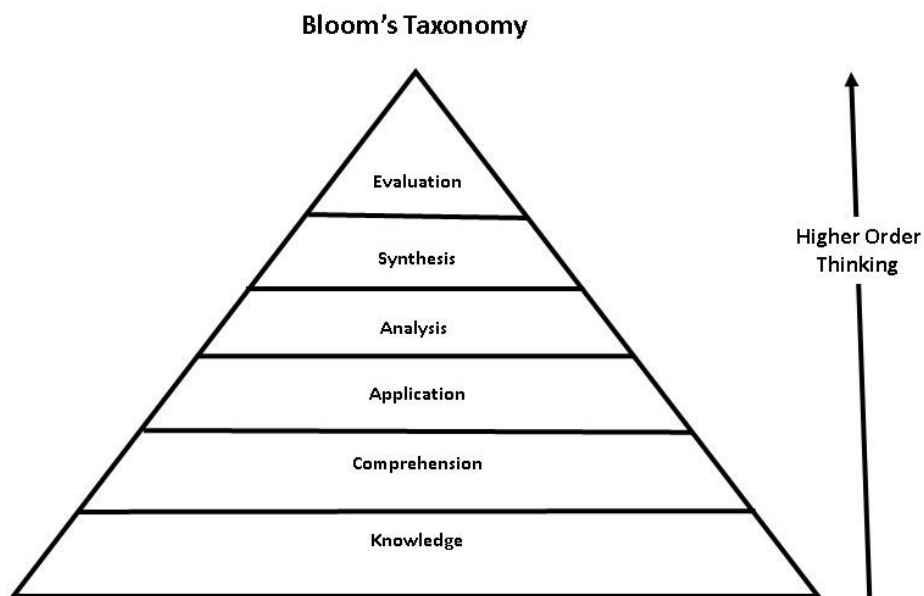
During the course of the semester; students are required to read assigned book chapters/handouts and complete assignments on their own, one research paper, and tests—all in a timely manner.

Discussion Board Assignments: These are a major component of the course delivery method. Each student is required to post original comments related to at least ONE Forum board question and respond to TWO posting made by their classmates each week. **To receive full-credit**, initial forum board posts should range between 250-350 words and responses should generally range between 75-125 words. These numbers are presented as a guideline and not as a restriction to do more. Proper (APA) citation is required.

The Forum board intent is to promote extensive dialog throughout the course and across weekly assignments as appropriate and promote and evaluate undergraduate level written communication. Each original forum board post is worth a maximum of 25 points and comments on classmates' posts (responses) are worth 10 points each (for a total of 20 "response" points) and a total of 45 forum board points per week.

Your participation in the forum must be substantive and timely. It is not sufficient to say you agree or disagree. ***Explain why***. You will get credit for thorough and supported responses to the week's question coupled with substantive interaction with your classmates on their responses to the question of the week. Points are subtracted for failure to interact with substantive comments and for less than thoughtful analysis in your own response. The deadline for your initial discussion forum post is 11:55 PM (MST) **Wednesday** unless otherwise stated. This allows time for responses from your classmates. However, it's preferable to post discussions throughout the week for the best grade results. Your responses to classmates must be done by **Saturday**, 11:55 PM (MST). Late responses are not graded. The discussion board is a significant portion of the class grade.

In order to earn the most points possible for the discussion board assignments I am looking at higher order thinking in both your initial discussion post and your replies to your classmates. The higher order thinking is based on Bloom's Taxonomy. The higher the order the better your score. Below is a visual of Blooms' Taxonomy.



Weekly Assignments: There will be seven (7) assignments given during the semester. The assignments will consist of fill in the blank based on the reading assignment plus a critical thinking exercise that should be two to three fully developed paragraphs. I am looking for scholarly insight for each critical thinking question. As this is college level work, the *content, clarity, organization, spelling, and grammar* of your writing are primary factors in scoring. The seven (7) course assignments will be worth 20% of your overall grade. The assignments will be submitted using APA (6th edition) writing style utilizing the format instructions from the research paper noted below. The weekly assignment is due Saturday at 11:55 PM (MST). *Late submissions are not accepted.*

Examinations: There are two (2) examinations given during the semester. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Refer to the “Course Schedule” for examination dates. Students are required to take these exams at the scheduled time—make-up exams are only allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Research Paper: Students are required to complete a research paper regarding the topic of their choice as long as it is related to criminal justice on the U.S. – Mexico border. The topic must be approved by the instructor (refer to the class schedule for topic selection deadlines). Remember that **this assignment is a research paper not an opinion paper**, so please ensure that you are trying to answer a research question as opposed to describing how you feel about a topic. If you treat this assignment as an opinion paper the best grade you can earn on it is a “C”.

I highly recommend that you review the APA style information that I have placed in the APA Resource folder. I deduct a significant portion of the grade for not following instructions such as using appropriate APA style.

- The paper must be at least six (6) pages – not including the title and reference pages, in the APA (6th edition) writing style. Use quotes and paraphrasing appropriately, backing up your views and opinions. Please do not submit a paper that is simply full of quotes because you will

not receive a very good grade for the assignment. *This class will not utilize an abstract for the paper and using one does NOT count towards your page count.* **First person is not allowed in formal writing and papers containing first person will receive no higher than a “C”.**

- The paper will be typewritten, double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman, and 1” margins. This paper will be supported by at least seven (7) scholarly, academic, or professional references. As this is college level work, the *content*, *clarity*, and *organization* of your writing are primary factors in scoring. However, your *spelling* and *grammar* count too.
- The paper will be written using the APA writing style (6th Edition) format. “**Wikipedia**” and “**YouTube**” are not acceptable sources. The Internet may be used to access information from scholarly journals, libraries, etc. *Google Scholar* is an excellent research database.
- Papers should be turned in no later than the date indicated on the attached class schedule. The paper will be worth 100 points and papers shall be **turned in no later than the date indicated on the attached class schedule.** Late papers will be accepted; however, **10 points will be deducted for each day late INCLUDING SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS.**
- *Early submissions of reports are accepted and highly encouraged.*

Assignment grading assessments will be weighted in the following way:

Examination #1	100
Examination #2	100
Weekly Assignments	140 (20 points/assignment)
Discussion Board	270 (45 points/assignment)
Research Paper prep	015 (05 points/assignment)
Research Paper	100
Total	725

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Grading Percentage
A	653-725	100% - 90%
B	580-652	80% - 89.9%
C	508-580	70% - 79.9%
D	435-508	60% - 69.9%
F	0-434	0 % - 59.9%

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center: The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment through the UWC’s website (uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC’s website to learn more about the services they provide, or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

Policies

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. This course may utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :),

Technical Requirements

The University of Texas at El Paso provided free 24/7 Helpdesk support to academic students and faculty members teaching on-line. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using technology and services, as well as, technical support. For technical assistance, or support, for this course, please refer to **Student Resource** link on upper right side of the Home Page.

Microsoft Office: This means that any uploaded files will have extension formant of either .doc or .docx. If you do not have Microsoft Office, check with your University of Texas at El Paso branch store for the special Microsoft Office package which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Course Schedule Changes and Important Dates

As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will provide the class with plenty of notice prior to the changes.

Census date – September 1, 2017: Students may drop the class before Census date without any penalty reflected in their transcript.

Auto W – October 4, 2017: Last day to withdraw with a “W”.

Disabled Student Statement

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/ or the director of the Disabled Student Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Course Copyright Notice

Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be furthered retained or disseminated.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Readings	Assignment
1	August 28, 2017 thru September 2, 2017	White House – “Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime” (July 2011)	Assignment 1 Discussion Board #1
2	September 3, 2017 thru September 9, 2017	CRS R41349: U.S./ Mexican Security Cooperation – The Merida Initiative and Beyond	Assignment 2 Research Paper Topic Due Discussion Board #2
3	September 10, 2017 thru September 16, 2017	Government Accountability Report (GAO) 13-175 (February 2013): SW Border Security: Data are Limited and Concerns Vary About Spillover Crime Along the Southwest Border, pages 1-29.	Test #1 Research Paper Thesis Statement Due Discussion Board #3
4	September 17, 2017 thru September 23, 2017	RAND – Summary through Ch. 6	Assignment 3 Assignment 4 Discussion Board #4
5	September 24, 2017 thru September 30, 2017	U.S. Strategy Against Mexican Drug Cartels: Flawed and Uncertain (Walser) & Journal of Strategic Security – Redefining terrorism: Why Mexican Drug Trafficking is More than Just Organized Crime (Longmire & Longmire)	Assignment 5 Assignment 6 Discussion Board # 5
6	October 1, 2017 thru October 7, 2017	No Readings Assigned	Research Paper Due
7	October 8, 2017 thru October 14, 2017	CRS R41075: Southwest Border Violence: Issues in Identifying and Measuring Spillover Violence	Assignment 7 Test #2 Discussion Board #6