

**The University of Texas at El Paso  
Department Criminal Justice  
Syllabus**

## COURSE

Title: CRIJ 3351 Criminal Justice on US-Mexico Border  
CRN: 22571- **16 weeks online** from 01/16/24-05/02/2024

## INSTRUCTOR

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Criminal Justice on the United States-Mexico Border: An examination of the nature and scope of crime on the United States-Mexico border and an evaluation of the strategies and programs employed by both governments to control criminal activity on the border.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

### **Textbook:**

Phelps, James, Dailey, J., and Koenigsberg, M. Border Security  
2nd edition  
ISBN-978 -1-53100-643-3

Additional readings for the course are available on Blackboard.





## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Define security comprehensively as it refers to the border region, giving consideration to distinctions between national, homeland and human security.
2. Understand the various definitions of “border”, including geographical, political and economic.
3. Understand what exactly “border security entails” in relation to different types of borders and how the concept developed historically.
4. Identify the missions of law enforcement charged with protecting the border Understand Border Patrol Operations from 1904 to present day.
5. Understand present-day physical border security, including various Border Fences, Operation Gatekeeper, and the effects of illegal immigration.
6. Describe the contribution of intelligence analysis to border security.
7. Describe the relationship between border security and various transnational crimes, look at transportation security as impacted by borders, and “solutions” to security along the southern border.

## \*COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal	 Teamwork Skills
Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge	 Critical Thinking Skills
Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts	 Communication Skills
Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts	 Social Responsibility

This course is designed with the UTEP Edge in mind. In our class, you will engage in creative activities during each class that involve critical thinking, applying knowledge to new situations, and solving complex problems. You will leave this course confident in your knowledge of criminology, with enhanced communication skills, leadership and teamwork experience, and a greater global awareness regarding the problem of criminal behavior and how it is responded to by individuals, groups, and the larger society.

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**COURSE COMMUNICATION:** How we will stay in contact with each other

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by the completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussions with your peers
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

## **ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

## **\*EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar’s Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

## **DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Discussion Board Posts

Due by Thursday of the week (11:59 pm) Replies are due by Sunday 5pt deduction for every day late.

#### Assignments

- Writing assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM) via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

### **NO MAKE-UP WORK**

### **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. I only accept work via Blackboard.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

### **\*ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

### **\*SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

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 as ones' own. 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

### **\*GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

You may not use AI tools such as **Chat GPT** to complete any of the activities:

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

### **PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE**

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to Safe Assign, a plagiarism detecting software. Safe Assign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

**\*COURSE RESOURCES:** Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

#### Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

#### Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made

possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

#### Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket request assistance to [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu)
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

### *Assignments: (350 points)*

There are seven assignments for this course worth 50 points each. For these assignments, you will be required to view seven different videos no more than 30 minutes each specific to US-Mexican Border issues. Write at least three-five paragraphs using your readings and other sources to describe the issues presented in the videos. Please use APA format make sure you reference your sources. **These assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. Failure to make the submission by the deadline will result in point deductions.**

### *Discussion posts/replies: (12 DP's each for 50 points each/610 points total)*

Each week you are responsible for creating a discussion post referring to one or both of the assigned readings for that week. These posts are due on Thursday by 11:59pm MST. To receive full credit your post must be at least 350 words per post (follow Bb instructions) and must indicate that you have read the assigned material. For the first week you must create two posts: one referring to the material and one providing an Introduction to yourself to the rest of the class. All original posts must be cited. Citation include your reference book or any other source used to answer the discussion question. **The Introduction post is worth ten points. You are required to post 2 replies to other students' introductions.**

You are also responsible for replying to another student's post. These replies are due on Sunday by 11:59pm MST. These replies must consist of substantive comments and not simple statements such as "I agree" or "I disagree." The responses should demonstrate your understanding of the post, provide an alternative to their opinions, or display application of concepts. The replies must also be at least 4 sentences.

A note on etiquette while online: Please remember that this is a classroom like any face-to-face course and you are expected to behave in the same manner as if you were having a face-to-face discussion with classmates. **Please refer to the Netiquette guide posted at the bottom of this syllabus.** Also refer to the

following website: <https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/blog/october-2017/10-rules-of-netiquette-for-students.html>

*Grade Calculation:*

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

*Point distribution:*

Discussion participation.....610points  
Assignments.....350points  
**Total.....960points**

*Grade scale:*

A	90% - 100%	860 – 960 points
B	80% - 89%	789 – 859 points
C	70% - 79%	700 – 788 points
D	60% - 69%	600 – 699 points
F	< 59%	< 599 points

**COURSE SCHEDULE\***

\* Students are responsible for reading all the required materials prior to coming to class on the dates listed below.

\* I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed. Revisions will be communicated to students via email or Blackboard.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Week 1:	Barriers, Boundaries, and Borders	Ch. 1	Discussion board post and reply	
Week 2:	Border Security in History	Ch. 2	Discussion board post and reply	
Week 3:	Border Security Agency Operations.	Ch. 3	Discussion board post and reply	Assignment #1
Week 4:	Physical Border Security	Ch. 4	Discussion board post and reply;	
Week 5:	Maritime Border Security.	Ch. 5	Discussion board post and reply;	

Week 6:	Trafficking: Contraband, Smuggling	Ch. 6	Discussion board post and reply;	Assignment # 2
Week 7:	Human Trafficking,	Ch. 7	Discussion board post and reply;	
Week 8:	Borders Economic.	Ch. 8	Discussion board post and reply;	Assignment # 3
Week 9	Spring Break			
Week 10:	Transportation Security	Ch. 9	Discussion board post and reply;	
Week 11:	US/Mexican Border	Ch. 10	Discussion board post and reply;	Assignment #4
Week 12:	The US-Canadian Border	Ch. 11	Discussion board post and reply;	
Week 13:	The Future of Borders and Boundaries in the Modern World Differences between Northern and Southern borders	Ch. 12	Discussion board post and reply	Assignment #5
Week 14-16:	Differences between Northern and Southern borders		Discussion board post and reply	Assignment #6 Final Assignment week 16 Assignment #7