

Instructor: Robert F. Alonzo, MS, CFE, PI
Telephone: 210.784.2233
Office: 347A – Central Administrative Building (CAB)
Email: ralonzo@tamusa.edu
Class Format: **F2F - HYBRID – BLACKBOARD**
Class Hours: **Thur – 9:30 am – 10:45 am**
Room: **MADLA 238**
Office Hours: **Tues–8:00 AM–10:15 AM; Thurs–8:00 AM–9:00 AM**
Tues/Thurs-2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Other times by Appointment

Semester Quotations

“Understanding the border-security big picture is a little like looking at a pointillist painting. There are so many points of reference, so many signals read and processed by a wide variety of people — including local sheriffs, urban police, immigration and border-patrol officials, bureaucrats and politicians — that spotting significant shifts is difficult.”

Robert Chesney

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

George Orwell

No Required Textbook

Readings to be assigned

Course Description

The CRIMINOLOGY 3357 course examines the cultural, historical, biographical, political, economic, and violence related border protection/security issues. The class will consist of lecture and student discussions on various border legal/social/national security topics. Through critical analysis, discussions, presentations, and research, students will trace, discuss, and report on the evolution of conventional border related criminal activity such as, human, drug, and weapons trafficking, cartel activity, terrorism, public corruption, gang activity, crimes against people, crimes against property, illegal immigration, bulk money transfers and money laundering, Latin American influence, the Mexican media, and border initiatives. Readings will include factual accounts of U.S Border States protection initiatives, current events and intelligence reports involving border violence, public corruption, and cartel influence as they relate to criminology, law enforcement, national security, and public media sources.

Course Objectives

1. To acquire a basic understanding of U.S./Mexico Border states security,
2. To evaluate and understand laws and social control along the U.S./Mexico border,
3. To review U.S./Mexico border legal cases,
4. To appreciate the challenges of border security and local, state, and federal criminal justice system legal processes,
5. To discuss informed legal opinion in U.S./Mexico border debates and issues,
6. To identify U.S./Mexico border legal customs, and
7. To recognize and appreciate the need for further legal research in U.S./Mexico Border security issues and policy.

General Education Goals

1. To enhance student's literacy skills through assigned readings, discussions, exams, and written reports,
2. To increase student awareness of cultural and multi-cultural concerns through the study of U.S./Mexico border security issues and how they relate to and affect all cultures,
3. To develop and apply critical thinking and analytical skills as they relate to U.S./Mexico border security and various social/legal systems,
4. To identify and comprehend various U.S./Mexico border security issues and social factors that relate to law and the legal system and to understand their nexus, and
5. To prepare for more advanced study in law, national security, and the legal/criminal justice fields.

Blackboard

As you chose to take this Hybrid Class, Blackboard will be used EACH WEEK.

Per the Academic calendar, the first day of classes this Spring 2024 semester is Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Please access Blackboard on that day for your first assignment that will be due in class on Thursday, January 18th, 2024, our first F2F meeting.

All students must be familiar with Blackboard, have reliable internet access, and have basic computer skills.

This class is not about teaching you how to use Blackboard.

Tutorials are available and are contained within Blackboard. If you do not have a fast AND reliable internet connection, you should plan to use TAMUSA on-campus computer labs for all coursework.

Forum Discussion Topics (FDT's), reading assignments, required reading questions, and their respective due dates will be posted on Blackboard along with grades, announcements, and key documents. Blackboard access issues or technical questions are to be directed to helpdesk@tamusa.edu or the ITS help desk at 210.784.4357.

Immediate and continued access to Blackboard is critical as student performance is evaluated each week and grade points accumulate beginning with Week 1.

This course will rely on written lectures, Power Point presentations, additional required readings, class interaction, and FDT's. Therefore, each student bears the responsibility to communicate with the professor and fellow students about course material so that class discussions remain fluid and meaningful. In order to accomplish this goal, students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading material(s), weekly lectures, and reviewed the chapter PowerPoints prior to addressing the weekly FDT's.

Since this is a Hybrid course it is critical each student complete each weeks reading and other assignments. I will be available via email and by appointment for any questions you may have about the assignments, or the material being discussed that week. In addition, general communication / announcements with the class will be made via the university **BLACKBOARD EMAIL SYSTEM**.

This is directly from the Enrollment Management and Student Business Services.

“3. **Required Attendance** - With our own federal financial aid continuing and in accordance with federal requirements,

ANY STUDENT RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID WHO DOES NOT ATTEND CLASSES DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES WILL LOSE THEIR FEDERAL AID. To continue to receive aid, you are required to attend classes and participate.”

(Note: Attendance in class equates to participation in and the timely, successful completion of assigned work, as outlined in the syllabus – beginning with week 1)

Students are responsible for ensuring access to Blackboard is unfettered.

Announcements sent to students through the Blackboard or TAMUSA e-mail system are one of the official means of communicating **course** instructions, information, deadlines, due dates, Syllabus changes, and university business, not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students must check their Blackboard and TAMUSA e-mail accounts regularly. Not having seen an important Blackboard or TAMUSA e-mail message or announcement from a **FACULTY MEMBER**, chair, dean or other University administrator is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to ensure any critical information sent to a FACULTY MEMBER, **by any means**, is in fact received by the FACULTY MEMBER. Blackboard access issues or technical questions are to be directed to helpdesk@tamusa.edu or the ITS help desk at 210.784.4357.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BLACKBOARD FAMILIARITY, ACCESS, AND TECHNICAL ISSUE RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.

Respectful Communication

A learning objective component for this course is always communicating respectfully even when in disagreement. Virtual communication does not contain non-verbal cues that are part of face-to-face communication and may be misinterpreted. It is your responsibility to structure your posts and responses in a manner that are respectful, informative, and usefully received by the recipients. Disrespect to any class participant will not be tolerated and will be immediately dealt with. Debate is a crucial part of the college learning process, so please do not hinder the learning environment by responding harshly or inappropriately to others. As noted earlier, if you disagree with someone's position, then refute it with well-reasoned and communicated responses.

Relevant Communication

This is a Hybrid class. You will be able to offer your uninterrupted comments, experiences, ideas, thoughts, and suggestions on each different topic in the Forum Discussion Topic (FDT). You will be allowed the space to be creative, critical, and express your feelings. Coupled with reading, exchanging ideas and suggestions with classmates, and debating thoughts and positions on topics, **you will get out of this class, exactly what you put into it.** So, take advantage of this forum and method of education with exchanging ideas and conveying, unabated, your supported position on issues relevant to the course.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

All outcomes will be assessed through a combination of quizzes/ assignments, exams, and online forum discussions topic (FDT) compositions.

Evaluation of Student Performance**Examinations**

There will be 3 exams during the semester, including the final. The final exam will consist of a combination of multiple choices, fill-in, true-false and short answer/ essay questions.

Quizzes/Assignments

There will be random date quizzes/class assignments given during the course of the semester totaling 50 points. No makeup quizzes/class assignments will be given, i.e., if you are absent from class on the day of the random quizzes or class assignments, including the first day of class, POINTS CANNOT BE MADE UP.

Online Forum Discussion Topics (FDT's)

*This is a hybrid course. A portion of your final grade is based on your online participation in the forum discussion topics (FDT's) in **Blackboard**. Forum discussion topics (FDT's) will be assigned during each week. Discussion assignments will consist of questions or topics covering reading material and multimedia sources that familiarize you with Border Security Issues. Your post must include a discussion of substantive material related to the topic and examples to illustrate your understanding of the material. **While quantity is not as critical as quality, a Substantive reply to the forum discussion topic is required. This is not a chat room, texting medium, or social media outlet. The maximum number of forum discussion points you may earn each week is 10, as shown in the Course Grades section of this syllabus. Extra credit points may be earned each week at the discretion of the Professor based on the post content.** Clear and concise answers and discussions are expected to be grammatically correct, referenced, if applicable, and shall take required readings and class discussions into account.*

Unlike formal written assignments, your **FDT** posts do not have to adhere to specific formatting requirements. However, **please be sure to carefully proofread, as spelling, punctuation, grammar, following assignment instructions, and paying attention to detail will impact the grading.** Your **SUBSTANTIVE (applicable, relevant, practical, essential, fundamental)** content, critical thought and analysis, current event reference, and real-life experiences, if applicable, of the forum discussion topic (FDT) post will be significant factors in your FDT online participation grade. Please do not wait until the last minute to post as rushed postings tend to lack substance, critical thought, word count, and do not provide meaningful discourse. The following criteria will be used to evaluate your FDT posts each week:

Topic Relevance

Content Development

Organization,

Readability/Style,

Length,

Grammar,

Punctuation, and

Spelling

FDT's will be posted in the **Discussion Board area in Blackboard** on Tuesday of each week and are due NLT 11:59pm the following Monday. Note: Late posts are not accepted. Technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission. A grading rubric for FDT's is included in this syllabus. Please review.

Following instructions and writing are critical skills in Criminal Justice.

Attendance

You are required to attend class.

Attendance will be taken each class day beginning with the first day.

4 absences will result in a letter grade drop.

5 or more absences will result in failure of the class.

For whatever reason, if you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and what is expected of you for the next class.

Final Thoughts – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

*It has been my experience over the years teaching online and hybrid classes that a few students do not address the topics or participate in online discussion and curriculum for the first couple of weeks, thinking they can catch up or make up work later in the semester or think the excuse of ‘not having access to Blackboard’ will resolve the issue...**please do not fall into this trap...***

*I urge you to begin your online regimen immediately, as **points accumulate from week 1 and there is no extra credit at the end of the semester...I repeat...there is no extra credit at the end of the semester.** Ensure you have access to Blackboard from day 1, as **it is the student’s responsibility to be prepared for class.** Do not wait until class begins to check your access. Check for and resolve any access issues before the first class day in Blackboard which is Tuesday, January 16, 2024.*

Non-access is not an acceptable excuse for a late start...I repeat... non-access is not an acceptable excuse for a late start...

*Notice the grading structure. It clearly outlines the number of points needed for specific grades. **Points are accumulated each week, beginning with week 1** and it is usually those students that need a few points at the end of semester **for the next higher grade or to pass the course** that suddenly realize extra credit work will put them over the top. **The maximum number of points a student may earn each week for Forum Discussion Topics (FDT’s) is 10.***

*The online method of higher education is not just about learning new material. It is a breakthrough in education that allows students and instructors to benefit from state of the art technology with minimum pushback from the hindering pressures of location, work schedules, family responsibilities, military deployments, and travel. If questions, concerns, internet inaccessibility, or conflicts ever arise, please feel free to communicate with me at any time at ralonzo@tamusa.edu. **All mail submitted to me will be answered.***

If you are able to, please come by and introduce yourself, as it is always good to place a name with a face. And I will be glad to assist you with any type of career information or questions you may have about any type of criminal justice, intelligence, or federal organizations.

Grading Rubric - Forum Discussion Topics (FDT)**WORD COUNTS WILL BE VERIFIED.**

1. *Student failed to respond to the FDT question.*

Zero (0) points

2. *The FDT illustrates poor understanding of the relevant material by failing to address or incorrectly addressing the relevant content; failing to identify or inaccurately explaining/defining key concepts/ideas; ignoring or incorrectly explaining key points/claims and the reasoning behind them; and/or incorrectly or inappropriately using terminology, and elements of the response are lacking.*

1 - 2.5 points

3. *The FDT illustrates a rudimentary understanding of the relevant material by mentioning but not fully explaining the relevant content; identifying some of the key concepts/ideas though failing to fully or accurately explain many of them; using terminology, though sometimes inaccurately or inappropriately; and/or incorporating some key claims/points but failing to explain the reasoning behind them or doing so inaccurately. Elements of the required response may also be lacking.*

3 - 5 points

4. *The FDT illustrates a solid understanding of the relevant material by correctly addressing most of the relevant content; identifying and explaining most of the key concepts/ideas; using correct terminology; explaining the reasoning behind most of the key points/claims; and/or where necessary or useful, substantiating some points with accurate examples. The answer is complete.*

6 - 7.5 points

5. *The FDT illustrates an exemplary understanding of the relevant material by thoroughly and correctly addressing the relevant content; identifying and explaining all of the key concepts/ideas; using correct terminology explaining the reasoning behind key points/claims and substantiating, as necessary/useful, points with several accurate and illuminating examples. No aspects of the required answer are missing.*

8 - 10 points

Course Grading

<i>Exam 1</i>	100
<i>Exam 2</i>	100
<i>Final Exam</i>	100
<i>Online Discussion Forum Topics (15wks x 10 points)</i>	150
<i>Random Quizzes, Assignments, Attendance</i>	50

<i>Total Possible Points</i>	500

Grading Scale

450-500 pts = A (90 %+)

400-449 pts = B (80 %+)

350-399 pts = C (70 %+)

300-349 pts = D (60 %+)

299 and below = F

University Policies

The Student Handbook is available through the Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage.

Student Academic Success

The Student Academic Success Center takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in the Madla Building, Suite 336. To contact the Center, please call 210-784-1352 or email at Student.Success@tamusa.edu

Student Conduct

Members of the University community assume full responsibility for compliance with Texas laws and for proper self-conduct. In addition to behaving according to the ordinary conventions of adult society, members of the University community are bound by University rules, procedures, administrative procedures, handbooks, catalogs and other university approved directives conducive to creating a positive campus atmosphere and general academic well-being. The code for student conduct is set forth in the *Student Handbook*. Specific attention is given there to rules addressing academic misconduct, hazing, sexual harassment and substance abuse, including alcohol abuse and the illicit use of drugs. Grievance procedures and guidelines for sanctions are outlined.

In order to create a healthy and pleasant atmosphere, a campus-wide smoking policy designates Texas A&M University-San Antonio as a smoke-free campus. Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic, and penalties for such behavior. The basic criteria, penalties, and details about disciplinary procedures are presented in the Texas A & M University-Kingsville San Antonio System Center Handbook on-line at www.tauk.edu/sanantonio/studenthandbook.pdf.

Student Academic Responsibilities

Students are expected to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the regulations of the University, to **accept responsibility for course requirements** for their degrees, and to **make inquiries in case of doubt**. It shall not be the University's responsibility should complications arise because of failure to follow regulations and requirements. **Regulations will not be waived nor exceptions to requirements made on a plea of ignorance. Students, therefore, should become familiar with all of the information related to their program of study contained in the on-line university catalog.**

Campus Safety

Campus safety is a high priority at TAMU-SA as we ensure the safety of all our students, faculty and staff. **JagE Alert** is the TAMU-SA comprehensive Emergency Notification System. Through this single site, students and employees can update their emergency contact information, see delivery statistics of previous emergency messages and access additional TAMU-SA emergency management resources. The JagE Alert address is <http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/upd/emergencynotification.html>.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. When the evidence is indisputable, the usual penalty is a grade of **F** on the particular paper or in the course. The student is usually confronted with the evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Director of Student Life and Wellness as well as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. Expulsion from the university is a normal penalty for such offenses.

Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process.

Dropping the Course

It is the student's responsibility to drop a course from the University. Please contact the Registrar if you desire to drop the course.

Below are the key dates for dropping a course for **SPRING 2024**.

Last day to drop a course with an automatic W – 4/13/2024

Last day to drop a course/withdraw from the University – 4/20/2024

Syllabus Addendum**Military Embracing**

Veterans and active duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, any special circumstances (e.g., upcoming development, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots; Casa in person, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at (210) 784-1174 or military@tamusa.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Counseling and Wellness

The Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) provides short-term individual, couples, and group counseling services, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate students' academic and life goals and enhance their personal growth and wellbeing. Our staff, of licensed mental health professionals, can work with you to identify more effective strategies both to cope with difficult situations and achieve goals set with your counselor. The counseling and wellness phone number is (210) 784-1331 and the email is StuCounseling@tamusa.edu.

Career Services

The Office of Career Services prepares students for real life objectives and expectations regarding careers and employment through the use of innovative research and learning techniques. Career Services provides quality counseling in the areas of choosing a major, job search strategies, pursuing employment and graduate school opportunities. Due to the high demand for services, they are available to currently enrolled A&M-SA undergraduate, and graduate students, and alumni who have graduated within the last year. The phone number is (210) 784-1356 and the email is career.services@tamusa.edu.

Tutoring and Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center will be operating online during the summer of 2021. The Writing Center can be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu or calling 210-784-1222. Students can also make appointments with the Writing Center under the Student Services tab in JagWire.

Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities at institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination and is therefore prohibited under Title IX. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile work or educational environment. Phone number for the Title IX coordinator is (210) 784-2061 and email is Janice.parten@tamusa.edu.

University Library

The University Library at Texas A&M University San Antonio is an integral part of the University's mission to prepare and empower students through a solid foundation for success as the primary learning support service for students on campus. The library is actively engaged in the teaching, research, and public service activities of A&M-SA. The University Library provides research assistance and instruction, curriculum support, access to a wide variety of information resources, and facilities that foster independent study and collaborative engagement. The phone number for the library is (210) 784-1500 and the email is library@tamusa.edu.

Campus Carry

As many of you know, campus carry is in effect. All faculty members were trained on these new laws over the summer. Based on that training, there are two issues to review: The first is that anyone carrying a weapon on campus must keep that weapon concealed (unless a licensed peace officer; badge/credentials should be readily visible if a peace officer's weapon is exposed. The second is that there are legal limitations on what the Professor is allowed to ask a student. These two aspects of the law create the potential for misunderstanding, especially as we all adjust to the new policies. The Professor's responsibility is to ensure that the law is complied with and that each student's rights are protected, so the following is classroom policy: • If you carry a gun, you must keep it concealed. • If the Professor sees a gun, she/he will notify campus police. By law they have the authority to demand you to present your License to Carry; the Professor does not. • If you see a gun, please feel free to talk with the Professor. Please do not ask the student whether or not he or she is licensed, etc. Also, please remember that seeing the outline of a gun through clothing is not considered "seeing" the gun. • If you hear a student threaten to harm themselves or another person, contact the A&M-SA Police Department immediately. You can also make a report using the CARE program. • If you have a License to carry, please follow all safety recommendations. Our campus police department is stressing the importance of a safe holster and the danger of an unintentional discharge of unholstered guns stored in purses or book bags.

Student Handbook

Any other issues not covered here can be found in the student handbook.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dssupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered.

You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.tamus.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be a time when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at A&M-SA, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC & WS) located in Modular C Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by SC & WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling.

In a crisis, please walk-in to the SC & WS services between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <http://www.tamusa.edu/riskmanagement/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 208. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination,

study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of University Student Rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and University officials.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to maintain a level of behavior that is consistent in supporting the learning environment of the institution and to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academiccalendar.html>

Spring 2024 Schedule 1/23/2024

		READINGS
1/18	<i>Welcome, Syllabus, Critical Thinking Concepts What is Border Security</i>	TBD
1/25	<i>Cultural, Historical, Biographical Issues Political & Economic Issues Human Smuggling/ Human Trafficking (DHS - Blue Campaign)</i>	
2/1	<i>Customs & Border Protection - DHS</i>	
2/8	<i>Texas Parks & Wildlife Department-State Police-Game Warden</i>	
2/15	<i>Exam 1</i>	
2/22	<i>Drug Trafficking (HIDTA)/ Gun Trafficking</i>	
2/29	<i>FBI - HUMAN TRAFFICKING</i>	
3/7	<i>Cartel Influence</i>	
3/12	SPRING BREAK	
3/14	SPRING BREAK	
3/21	<i>Border Initiatives & Posse Comitatus / Immigration</i>	
3/28	<i>Exam 2</i>	
4/4	<i>GUEST PRESENTATION - DCSA</i>	
4/11	<i>Border Gang Activity</i>	
4/18	<i>RELATED TOPICS</i>	
4/25	<i>FINAL EXAM REVIEW</i>	
5/1-7	<i>FINAL EXAM - TBD</i>	
	The Syllabus is subject to change	

A requirement of this course is to acknowledge to Professor Alonzo through the Blackboard Email Messaging System that you have read and understand the syllabus.