

Instructor: Robert F. Alonzo, MS, CFE, PI
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Class Format: **F2F - HYBRID – BLACKBOARD**
Class Hours: **Tuesday – 3:30 – 4:45 pm**
Room: **CAB 337**
Office Hours: **Tues–Thurs 8 am–10:30 am; 2 pm – 3 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 class this Spring 2025 semester is Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Please access Blackboard on that day for your first assignment that will be due on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, our second 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 Forum Discussion Topics (FDTs). 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 topic 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*)

Letter Grade Reduction

You are required to attend class.

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

2 late class arrivals or being Tardy equals 1 absence

3 absences shall result in a letter grade drop.

4 or more absences shall result in failure of the class.

Excused absences require adequate documentation.

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.

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

A random number of quizzes/assignments will be given during the semester. Important...while you may have an excusable absence from class, if you are not in class the day or days an in-class quiz or assignment is given, missed quizzes/assignments cannot be made up.

Following instructions and writing are critical skills in Criminal Justice.

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.*

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 21, 2025.*

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>	<i>100</i>
<i>Exam 2</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Online Discussion Forum Topics (14wks x 10 points)</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>Random Quizzes, Assignments</i>	<i>60</i>

<i>Total Possible Points</i>	<i>500</i>

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**

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 2025.

Last day to drop a course with an automatic W – 4/21/2025

Last day to drop a course/withdraw from the University – 4/28/2025

- No Use of Generative AI Permitted

CRIM 3357 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students shall not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

For each item turned in, you attest to the following:

"I confirm that I did not use AI, including but not limited to, ChatGPT, Gemini, or any other platform to generate classwork or assignments. I understand that Texas A&M holds students to the highest level, so I did not cheat and/or plagiarize class work and or assignments. I also confirm that my submitted work will be run through plagiarism software. If it reveals I have generated any portion of my classwork from AI, I will earn an immediate zero and may have disciplinary action by the college."

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.

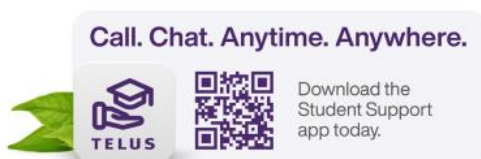
IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling. *Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').*

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



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

with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit:
<https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

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.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

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 submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@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 course 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.

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, equal 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 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, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting 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. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease

participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

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, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting 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 administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct

(<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Campus Carry

As many of you know, campus carry is in effect. All faculty members were trained on these new laws. Based on that training, there are two issues I want 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 I am 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. My job is to ensure that the law is complied with, and that each student's rights are protected, so this will be my classroom policy: • If you carry a gun, you must keep it concealed. • If I see a gun, I will notify campus police. By law they have the authority to demand you to present your License to Carry; I do not. • If you see a gun, please feel free to talk with me. 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 un-holstered guns stored in purses or book bags.

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

Spring 2025 Schedule

		READINGS
1/21	<i>Welcome, Syllabus, Critical Thinking Concepts What is Border Security</i>	TBD
1/28	<i>Cultural, Historical, Biographical Issues Political & Economic Issues Cartel Influence</i>	
2/4	NO CLASS	
2/11	<i>Human Smuggling/ Human Trafficking (DHS - Blue Campaign)</i>	
2/18	<i>Exam 1</i>	
2/25	<i>Public Corruption</i>	
3/4	<i>Border Initiatives & Posse Comitatus</i>	
3/10-15	SPRING BREAK	
3/18	<i>Border Gang Activity</i>	
3/25	<i>Exam 2</i>	
4/1	<i>Drug Trafficking (HIDTA)/ Gun Trafficking</i>	
4/8	<i>Immigration</i>	
4/15	<i>Money Laundering/Bulk Cash Smuggling</i>	
4/22	<i>Terrorism</i>	
4/29	<i>Final Exam Review</i>	
5/6	<i>Study day</i>	
5/7-13	<i>FINAL EXAM - TBD</i>	
	The Syllabus is subject to change	

A requirement of this course and to earn 10 extra credit points is to acknowledge through the Blackboard Email Messaging System that you have read and understand the syllabus.