Syllabus for Sociology 3563-070 Policing in U.S. Society
Summer Semester 2009

Instructor: Larry L. Bench Ph.D.
Office: 309 BEH S
Location: Sandy Campus, Room 122
Day and Time: Thursday Eve 6:00-9:00 PM
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Texts:
Critical Issues in Policing: Contemporary Readings (5th Ed) Dunham and Alpert
Waveland Press

Course Description
The objective of this course is to introduce the student to the functions, roles, and services of the various policing agencies in the United States. The course will examine policing from a sociological perspective and follow its development through to its contemporary role in the American criminal justice system. Topics to be covered include: elements of criminal liability, etiology and historical development of policing, law enforcement management practices and styles, the nature and scope of police work, law as it pertains to arrest, search and seizure, police crime, corruption, and brutality, and the challenges facing the future of policing. Some attention will be devoted to constitutional safeguards and limitations imposed upon the police as a function of the Bill of Rights. Reading assignments and lectures may be supplemented with guest speakers and videos. Class participation is encouraged.

Course Objectives
• Gain an understanding of historical development of police functions
• Understand the function that the police serve to the criminal justice system
• Comprehend what is meant by the “police personality”
• Understand both civil and criminal liabilities associated with police functions
• Gain an understanding of the ethical challenges facing the police
• Comprehend the various ethical challenges faced by police

Grading
The final grade will be based on 3 midterm exams each worth 30 percent of the final grade and a class presentation worth 10 percent of the final grade. Makeup exams will not be given. Please plan to take the exams when scheduled. The final grade will be based on the following scale: (100-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73) C- (72-70) D+ (69-67) D (66-63) D- (62-60) E (<60)

Class Presentation:
Teams will be constructed of 2-3 students for the purpose of making a short class presentation on a reading from the Dunham and Albert text. The objective of the
presentation is to provide an overview of the article. Please feel free to use PowerPoint presentations and overheads as part of your presentation. Critical evaluation of the article is encouraged if the presenters feel it is appropriate. A 2-3 page typed summary or outline of the article is to be handed into the instructor at the time of the presentation.

Your paper must include four multiple-choice questions each with four possible answers. The correct answer should be indicated. Please be sure to label your paper with the names of the presenters, title of the article, and date of the presentation.

Your paper should be spell checked and conform to contemporary grammatical rules and conventions. Presentation = 5% of final grade. Outline and questions = 5% of final grade.

Notable Dates

May 21 – Class Introduction
May 28 – Overview of Criminal Liability
June 4 – Origin and Evolution of American Policing
June 11 – Policing in the American Context
June 18 – Police Subculture
June 25 – Patrol, Peacekeeping, and Investigation
July 2 – Policing and the Law
July 9 – Deviance, Ethics, and the Law
July 16 – The Use of Force
July 23 – No Class

Unfortunately, academic dishonesty has become a serious problem on many campuses. The purpose of including the following statement is to prevent any misunderstanding about what constitutes academic dishonesty and what consequences will result if it is detected.

Academic honesty is expected. An act of academic dishonesty will result in a failing course grade of “E” and may result in a recommendation of additional disciplinary
action. (The University of Utah Student Code provides for these sanctions and provides appeal rights.)

1. Cheating (as defined in Article XI of the Student Code) generally includes the giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.

2. Plagiarism, as defined in Article XI of the Student Code, is “the appropriation of any other person's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.”

3. Falsification. Any untrue statement, either oral or written concerning one’s own academic work or the academic work of another student, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.

4. Original work. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, all academic work undertaken in this course must be original, that is, it must not have been submitted in a prior course nor may it be submitted in a course being taken concurrently.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.