

Good Cop, Bad Cop: Policing in the U.S.¹

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Fall 2014
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Course Content

The objective of this course is to explore law enforcement. The course is divided into four major sections: a foundation of law enforcement, introduction to police work, officers and organizations, and issues in policing. Specifically, students will be introduced to the nature of policing, a history of policing in the United States, different types of law enforcement agencies, different roles/functions of police in our society, how police respond to crime, experiences of police officers, and current issues and problems in policing. Attention will be directed at including issues relating to race, class, gender due to the historical exclusion of these issues in criminological discussion.

Course Goal

Students, after completing this course, should be able to recognize, understand, and think critically about the major issues in policing. Additionally, students should be able to apply concepts covered in the course to their encounters with crime and policing (via the media, through personal experience, and so on).

THIS ENTIRE COURSE IS ONLINE

CANVAS: All lectures, assignments, exams, and discussions are to be completed on Canvas in this course. Students are expected to have computer proficiency and computer access to complete the above. If you have any problems with your Canvas account, please contact the campus help desk. Students are responsible for having access to Canvas before assignments, exams, or discussions are due. Announcements, clarifications, and adjustments to the course will be made periodically throughout the semester on Canvas—you are responsible for these announcements (i.e. you must check Canvas on a regular basis throughout the semester!) LATE ASSIGNMENTS and DISCUSSIONS will be penalized. NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UPS.

ONLINE HELPDESK: 801-585-5959

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be required to complete the following: 2 exams, a final paper on a topic to be assigned, class participation (via online discussions) and online assignments.



¹ Please note that this is the same class SOC 3563 Policing in U.S. Society.

MODULES: The course is divided into 14 modules. Each module includes lectures, readings, possible discussions, and possible assignments. A modified version of the lecture notes will be available—please use this to take notes on the lectures you listen to or to use as a guide to the class. **NOTE THAT IT IS MODIFIED—YOU WILL MISS MOST OF THE CLASS (AND THUS NOT DO WELL ON EXAMS) IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT THIS WITHOUT LISTENING TO THE LECTURES! These modules can be found each week under “Learning Modules” on Canvas.**

A calendar and description of each module can be found later in this syllabus. Please note that additional readings, videos, video clips etc...may be part of any module—these will be assigned when the appropriate module is posted.

Exams: Each exam will cover readings, lectures, videos, and discussion from the portion of class prior to the exam of the class. The second exam will not be cumulative. Students will be tested on how well they comprehend and are able to apply the concepts covered in the course. **Exams are worth 30 points each and must be taken in the time period in which they are scheduled.**

Online discussions (i.e. class participation): Students will be required to participate in online discussion groups. Discussion topics will be assigned and then students will receive points based on responding as well as on the quality of their responses (1 point for the response and 1 point for the content of the response). Students may be required to watch a video, video clip, or read something in order to participate in the discussion (see the instructions for each specific discussion the week that module is posted). The success of the discussions is dependent upon the quality of your participation and hopefully this will be a very beneficial component of the course—feel free to post comments, replies, and questions as often as you like during the duration of that discussion topic. **STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED A DISCUSSION GROUP BY THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS. There will be 10 discussions worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points. Your postings/replies for the discussion are due by midnight of the last day of the module for which there is a discussion.**

Online assignments: Assignments may include polls, surveys, reactions to readings or videos, and so on. Assignments will be posted in the “learning modules” on Canvas and the syllabus includes which modules will have assignments attached to them (i.e. see Course Calendar and Readings). **There will be 5 assignments worth 2 points each for a total of 10 points and it will be due on by midnight of the last day of the module.**

Term Paper: Students will be expected to complete a well-written, well-researched 5 to 8 page research paper on a topic to be assigned. Students should use at least five recent academic journal articles or books to research the assigned topic. Papers should be double-spaced and typed in 12 point font or less with 1” margins on all sides. Students will be graded on how well they researched the topic, answered the given question(s), and technical aspects of the paper (grammar, punctuation, citations, writing, etc...). More information regarding the term paper will be provided on Blackboard Vista. **The paper is worth 10 points and is due by midnight on the due date.**

Exams: 60 points

Discussions/Participation: 20 points

Assignments: 10 points

Paper: 10 Points

Total: 100 points

Grading Scale:

100-93 points: A

92.9-90 points A-

89.9-87 points B+

86.9-83 points B

82.9-80 points B-
79.9-77 points C+
76.9-73 points C
72.9-70 points C-
69.9-67 points D+
66.9-63 points D
62.9-60 points D-
59.9 and below F

Course Organization and Ground rules

This course will be completed entirely online. Due to the nature of the material we are discussing, there is likely to be some lively discussion and some disagreement. In addition, some people may feel uncomfortable, upset, or even shocked by some of the course material. This is OK and is even to be expected. I hope that this course will be challenging both intellectually and personally. The following ground rules must be followed:

- 1) Acknowledge that people in our culture have different experiences based on race, class, sex, age and sexuality. Think sociologically about these issues and critically analyze our opinions and beliefs.
- 2) Agree that our online classroom should be a place where no one is made to feel embarrassed or ashamed. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate language, insults, or personal attacks. We do not have to agree with one another, but we must be able to discuss our differences in a respectful manner.
- 3) Be aware that there are most likely students in the class who have various experiences with the police (as victims, as offenders, as acquaintances, family, etc... of police). It is important that comments made in class are respectful of these experiences and the impact that these experiences may have had on people's lives.
- 4) Agree to follow the rules/standards of the student code. Any student who violates these is subject to the consequences as discussed in the student code/handbook.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR ASSIGNMENTS.

Required Readings

Gallo, G. (2001) *Armed and Dangerous: Memoirs of a Chicago Policewoman*, New York: Forge Press.

Articles on reserve and provided in class

Course Calendar and Readings

Part 1: Foundation in Policing

Module 1: 8/25-8/31

Introduction Course and to Policing

Module 2: 9/1-9/7

History of Policing

Contemporary Policing

READING: Thale, Christopher (2007). The Informal World of Police Patrol: New York City in the Early Twentieth Century, *Journal of Urban History*, 33:183.

Discussion #1

Module 3: 9/8-9/14

Federal and Other Law Enforcement Agencies

Law Enforcement in Other Countries

Video

Assignment #1

Part 2: Officers and Organizations

Module 4: 9/15-9/21

Entering Police Work

On the Job

READING: Robert (1990) A Badge and A Baccalaureate: Policies, Hypotheses, and Further Evidence, *Justice Quarterly*, 7 (3): 556-592.

Assignment #2

Module 5: 9/22-9/28

Police of Color, LGBT Police

Readings: TBA

Discussion #2

Module 6: 9/29-10/5

Female Police Officers

Readings: Gallo's Armed and Dangerous

Discussion #3

Assignment #3

FIRST EXAM to be taken from 10/6-10/12

10/13-10/17—FALL BREAK; NO MODULE

Part 3: Police Work

Module 7: 10/20-10/26

Police Patrol

Discussion #4

Module 8: 10/27-11/2

Peacekeeping and Order Maintenance

Example: Policing Domestic Violence

READING: Johnson, Ida M. (2007) Victims' Perceptions of Police Response to Domestic Violence Incidents, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 35: 498-510

Assignment #4

Module 9: 11/3-11/9

The Police and Crime

Example: Policing Drugs and Policing Gangs

Discussion #5

Module 10: 11/10-11/16

Community Oriented Policing

Problem-Oriented Policing

READING: Wilson, James Q. and Kelling, George (1982) Broken Windows, *Atlantic Monthly*, 249 (3): 29-38

Discussion #6

Part 4: Issues in Policing

Module 11: 11/17-11/23

Police Discretion

False Confessions

Article: TBA

Discussion #7

Module 12: 11/24-11/26*

Police Brutality and Use of Force

Police Use of Deadly Force

READING: Rojek, Jeff, Alpert, G. and Smith, H.P. (2012) Examining Officer and Citizen Accounts of Police Use-of-Force Incidents, *Crime and Delinquency*, 58 (2): 301-327

Discussion #8

Assignment #5

***Please note that THANKSGIVING BEAK 11/27-11/28 so I will accept assignment and discussion until Monday 12/1 at midnight.**

Module 13: 12/1-12/7

Police Corruption

Readings: Caless, B (2008) Corruption in the Police: The Reality of the 'Dark Side'', *Police Journal*, 8(1): 3-24.

Discussion #9

Final Paper Due

Video

Module 14: 12/8-12/12

Police Accountability

Discussion #10

Future of Policing

SECOND EXAM to be taken from 12/13-12/19

***Note: The schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified.**

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

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

All printed information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services."