

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Division of Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice 167
Police in Society
Sections 1 & 2
cater@csus.edu

Spring, 2009
Lecturer: Owen Cater

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of the origins, philosophy, objectives and priorities of the police service in the U.S. A holistic analysis of political, social, economic, legal and other factors impacting the relationship between the police and the society they serve. Police use of discretion, police roles, police and minority groups, police and protest groups, police brutality and police ethics are also studied. Prerequisite: Restricted to declared majors and minors or instructor's permission

TEXT

Travis, Lawrence F. III and Langworthy, Robert H. **Policing in America: A Balance of Forces**, Fourth Edition, Prentice Hall, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-158022-0

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The objective of this course is to provide a greater understanding of the role of the police in our society. The course is designed to create an awareness of the complex nature of policing and enable the student to critically analyze significant and current issues, such as corruption and use of force.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The course will be presented in a combination of lecture and discussion format, supplemented by video tapes and guest speakers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to earn a passing grade in this course, you are required to attend class on time. Attendance is taken. In event of 3 unexcused absences, a student's grade may be reduced 1 grade. If there are 5 or more, the student should consider dropping the course. In event of 6 or more unexcused absences, the student may be dropped or receive an "F" for the course.

Students must also complete reading assignments, participate in class discussions and achieve passing scores on the course assignments.

EXAMINATIONS AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT

The examinations and writing assignment combined into four assignments. The assignments are take home. Each consists of three questions, of which the student will select one and write a three to four page essay on it. There will be an assignment about every four weeks. The exact dates are listed on the course schedule. Each assignment will be handed out during the last class of the week and will be due the first class session of the next week.

Each assignment will comprise twenty five percent of the semester grade. Unexcused absence from an assignment or an assignment turned in late will result in a reduction of grade.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING POLICY

Plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 (zero) on the assignment and referral to university authorities for further disciplinary action. Any form of cheating will result in an F for the course and referral to university authorities for further disciplinary action.

GRADING

Grading is based on individual merit and not on class curve:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Capacity to describe the antecedents that shaped policing in the U.S. and link these to the intervening processes which shaped policing.
2. Ability to describe the historical evolution of the policing process and structure and explain the key influences that have shaped them.
3. Capacity to explain the nature and origin of moral issues inherent in policing.
4. Capacity to explain the influence of race, class and gender on the history of policing.
5. Ability to explain the role of discretion and ambiguity in the policing process and to explain the interaction of these two components.
6. Ability to describe and explain the interface between police and crime, various crime control strategies and recent developments in police interventions.
7. Ability to define currently relevant and emerging issues in policing including community interaction and homeland security.
8. Ability to explain the conditions and influences that foster police misconduct and the nature of potential responses.
9. Ability to identify ethical issues inherent in policing, take ethical positions on these issues and support these positions with logic and evidence.
10. Ability to explain the issues inherent in police use of force and coercion.

OFFICE HOURS

Office: Alpine Hall 209 Phone: 278-7691
Hours: MW 11:00 – 12:30
E-mail: cater@csus.edu

Criminal Justice 167
Section 1 & 2

Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative. Every effort will be made to follow it, however circumstances may arise which necessitate deviation from it. Students will be notified of any deviation at the earliest opportunity.

Week 1	January 26 January 28 January 30	Introduction, review syllabus and course expectations . Chapter 1 - Review Assignment Procedures Chapter 1
Week 2	February 2 February 4 February 6	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 2
Week 3	February 9 February 11 February 13	Chapter 3 Chapter 3 Chapter 3
Week 4	February 16 February 18 February 20	Chapter 4 Chapter 4 Chapter 4 - First Assignment Handed Out
Week 5	February 23 February 25 February 27	Chapter 5 - First Assignment Due Chapter 5 Chapter 5
Week 6	March 2 March 4 March 6	Chapter 6 Chapter 6 Chapter 6
Week 7	March 9 March 11 March 13	Chapter 7 Chapter 7 Chapter 7
Week 8	March 16 March 18 March 20	Chapter 8 Chapter 8 Chapter 8- Second Assignment Handed Out
Week 9	March 23 March 25 March 27	Chapter 9 - Second Assignment Due Chapter 9 Chapter 9

March 30 – April 3, 2009**Spring Break**

Week 10	April 6 April 8 April 10	Chapter 10 Chapter 10 Chapter 10
Week 11	April 13 April 15 April 17	Chapter 11 Chapter 11 Chapter 11
Week 12	April 20 April 22 April 24	Chapter 12 Chapter 12 Chapter 12 - Third Assignment Handed Out
Week 13	April 27 April 29 May 1	Chapter 13 - Third Assignment Due Chapter 13 Chapter 13
Week 14	May 4 May 6 May 8	Chapter 14 Chapters 14 & 15 Chapter 15
Week 15	May 11 May 13 May 15	Chapters 15 & 16 Chapter 16 Chapter 16 - Fourth Assignment Handed Out

Week 16 Fourth Assignment Due:

Section 1	Friday May 22, 2009	8:00 – 10:00 AM
Section 2	Monday May 18, 2009	10:15 AM – 12:15 PM