

**CRIM 490-DL2
Police Psychology
Spring 2024
George Mason University
Fairfax Campus**

Instructor

Professor Jack Kitaeff, PhD, JD

Contact Info: jkitaeff@gmu.edu
Office hours: By appointment, available before or
after class, and during breaks

I will communicate with students through Mason email.

See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for information on how to use your account. If you prefer to use a different email address please notify me or set up forwarding to that address. I check my email frequently and it's the quickest way to reach me.

Course Description and Objectives:

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the cutting-edge topics in police psychology.

NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to change or modify this syllabus at any time during the semester.

Required Textbook:

Handbook of Police Psychology
Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2nd Edition (2019)
By Jack Kitaeff
ISBN 978-1-138-91705-7

Course Format

Class will be presented in audio recorded lecture and Power Point format.

Honor Code:

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All students are expected to be familiar with this Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are prohibited.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Add/Drop Period:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. Available from the Registrar's Website at registrar.gmu.edu.

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from the class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

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After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

Grading:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows (total 100 points):

Midterm Exam: 40 points
Final Exam: 40 points
Case Report: 20 points

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Total Points
A+	97 – 100
A	93 – 96
A -	90 – 92
B+	86 – 89
B	82 – 85
B-	80 – 81
C+	76 – 79
C	72 – 75
C-	70 – 71
D	65 – 69
F	64 and Below

Case Report

You are required to find and read the legal case of *Jordan v. The City of New London Connecticut* (2000 U.S. App. Lexis 26351). In this police-related case, you are to identify the parties, who was the plaintiff? Who was the defendant? You are to identify what each party contended, the facts of the case, the issues before the court, and the final judgment in the case. Be aware that this case is actually two cases, the trial court and then the Appeal. You must summarize each case. Your case report is due in the Blackboard assignment drop box by **April 22, 2024**. The report must be in APA format and from 6 to 10 double spaced pages with 1 inch margins and **written on one side of the page only**.

Exams:

The midterm and final exams will be online and open-book. The exams will use any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the blanks, and true or false questions. Make-up exams will only be given under **exceptional, unavoidable circumstances** with proper documentation. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP.

Course Schedule

Week of January 16: Introduction to the course.

Week of January 22: Chapter 1: History of Police Psychology

Week of January 29: Chapter 2: Police Psychological Consultation Services to Public Safety.

Week of February 5: Chapter 3: Legal Issues in Hiring and Promotion of Police Officers

Week of February 12: Chapter 4: Ethical Issues in Police Psychology

Week of February 19: Chapter 13: Fitness-for-Duty Evaluations

Week of February 26: Chapter 16: When Cops Kill: Understanding the Psychology of Deadly Force

March 11: **Midterm Exam** (8:00 am through 11:59 PM)

Week of March 18: Chapter 18: Hostage Negotiations

Week of March 25: Chapter 24: Suicide in Law Enforcement

Week of April 1: Chapter 25: Psychological Strategies for Helping Officers Under Investigation, Criminal Prosecution, or Civil Litigation

Week of April 8: Chapter 26: Evidence-Based Psychological Interventions to Promote Officer Resiliency

Week of April 15: Chapter 27: Critical Incident Reactions and Early Interventions

April 22: **Case Reports Due**

May 7: **Final Exam:** 8:00 am through 11:59 PM