

CRIM 401 - 001 Policing in America
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Criminology, Law, and Society
George Mason University

Spring 2019

Instructor: David Huchler
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Time: Tuesday, 7:20 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Exploratory Hall – L003

Course Description (GMU Course Catalog):

This course reviews issues relevant to contemporary public policing in America: role and history of police; impact on crime, disorder, and other social problems; discretion and its control; moral hazards; police legitimacy and public support; police culture and the police organization; and community policing.

I. Learning Goal

By the end of the course, students will understand the history of police in America and the important role they play within the communities they serve. Lecture, discussion and real life examples will enable students to assess police action, policy and progress through different historical time periods and how this has shaped policing today.

II. Course Requirements and Grading

- 20% - Chapter Assignments/Quizzes – *Assignment/quizzes will be completed in Blackboard using the McGraw-Hill Connect® subscription-based learning service.*
- **20% - Mid-Term Exam**
- 20% - An original five (5) page, double spaced, paper on a topic assigned by the instructor. The paper should use class readings and discussion to form a position on the selected topic. In addition to the assigned text and the 21st Century Policing Report, students are required to cite at least three other sources. Papers will be written using the APA formatting and style guide (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/helpful-links>).
- **20% - Final Exam**
- 20% - Participation – *includes class participation and the presentation of a selected essay(s).*

****Failure to complete each of these requirements will result in an Incomplete.***

III. Grading Scale

A	100 – 93 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	92.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 83 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	82.9 – 80 %		

IV. Schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1	1/22	First Day of Class	Introduction/Overview	
Week 2	1/29	Text – Chapter 1& 2		
Week 3	2/5	Text – Chapter 3	Quiz (Chapter 1,2,3)	
Week 4	2/12	Text – Chapter 4 & 5		
Week 5	2/19	Text – Chapter 6	Quiz (Chapter 4,5,6)	Guest Speaker
Week 6	2/26	Presentations		
Week 7	3/5	Mid-Term Exam		
Week 8	3/12	Spring Break	NO CLASS	
Week 9	3/19	Text – Chapter 7		
Week 10	3/26	Text – Chapter 8 & 9	Quiz (Chapter 7,8,9)	
Week 11	4/2	Text – Chapter 10		
Week 12	4/9	Text – Chapter 11		
Week 13	4/16	Text – Chapter 12	Quiz (Chapter 10,11,12)	Guest Speaker
Week 14	4/23	Presentations Research Paper DUE		
Week 15	4/30	Text – Chapter 15		
Week 16	5/7	Reading Day	NO CLASS	
	5/14	Final Exam	7:30pm – 10:15pm	

V. Required Reading

Samuel Walker and Charles Katz, *The Police in America: An Introduction*, 9th edition, McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing (2018)

The *Police in America* provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundations of policing in the United States today. Descriptive and analytical, the text is designed to offer undergraduate students a balanced and up-to-date overview of who the police are and what they do, the problems they face, and the many reforms and innovations that have taken place in policing. Using timely articles and excerpts, the authors take readers beyond the headlines and statistics to present a comprehensive and contemporary overview of what it means to be a police officer.

Student will use the McGraw-Hill Connect® subscription based service described below, which will be integrated with GMU Blackboard. Access can be purchased through the George Mason University Book Store. Students will then log into their Blackboard account in order to activate the subscription. The log in for the McGraw-Hill Connect® subscription can be accessed by clicking on the Assignment folder and clicking on the McGraw-Hill Connect Learn Smart link or the first LS assignment. Once the subscription is activated students will only have to log into Blackboard to access the Connect digital platform.

*****Important Note – access Connect through Blackboard, not the McGraw-Hill website, to ensure BB and Connect interface correctly*****

Instructors and students can now access their course content through the Connect digital learning platform by purchasing either standalone Connect access or a bundle of print and Connect access. McGraw-Hill Connect® is a subscription-based learning service accessible online through your personal computer or tablet. Choose this option if your instructor will require Connect to be used in the course. Your subscription to Connect includes the following:

- *SmartBook® - an adaptive digital version of the course textbook that personalizes your reading experience based on how well you are learning the content.*
- *Access to your instructor's homework assignments, quizzes, syllabus, notes, reminders, and other important files for the course.*
- *Progress dashboards that quickly show how you are performing on your assignments and tips for improvement.*
- *The option to purchase (for a small fee) a print version of the book. This binder-ready, loose-leaf version includes free shipping.*

President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. 2015. Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf

“The mission of the task force was to examine ways of fostering strong, collaborative relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they protect and to make recommendations to the President on ways policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust.”

VI. Optional Reading

Optional readings will be placed in the Content area of Blackboard to support the text book readings and lectures.

VII. 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. **Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.** All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. See <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/> for more detailed information.

VIII. University Policies

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to the University Catalog and the University Policies website for all other university academic and non-academic policies can be found in the links below:

- Mason Alert-Weather: <https://ready.gmu.edu/mason-alert-update-regarding-weather/>
- Office of Disability Services: <https://ds.gmu.edu/>
- Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>
- Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://caps.gmu.edu/University>
- Catalog: <https://catalog.gmu.edu>
- University Policies: <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/all-policies/>
- University Library: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Add/Drop Period:

January 29 – *last day to add*

February 5 – *last day to drop with no tuition penalty*

Class Cancellations:

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for adverse weather or any other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at: <https://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/> . If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to check your email regularly so you can receive important information in a timely manner.