

CRIM 401 - 002 Policing in America
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Criminology, Law, and Society
George Mason University

Fall 2019

Instructor: David Huchler
Email: dhuchler@gmu.edu

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 periods and how this has shaped policing today.

II. Course Requirements and Grading

- 15% - Chapter Assignments/Quizzes – *Assignment/quizzes will be completed in Blackboard using the Cengage MindTap subscription-based learning service.*
- **20% - Mid-Term Exam**
- 20% - One of the two options below:
 - Research Paper - an original six (6) 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>) or
 - Field Trip - a two (2) page, double-spaced reflective paper on your experience at the National Law Enforcement Museum.
- **20% - Final Exam**
- 10% - Class presentation/Line of Duty Death (LODD) paper.
- 15% - Participation –*class participation.*

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

III. Grading Scale

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|----|-------------|----|----------------|
| 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

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|---------|-------|---|--|---------------|
| Week 1 | 8/27 | First Day of Class | Introduction/Overview | |
| Week 2 | 9/3 | Text – Chapter 1 | Police History | |
| Week 3 | 9/10 | Text – Chapter 3 <i>(Presentations)</i> | Organizing the Police Department | |
| Week 4 | 9/17 | Text – Chapter 4 | Becoming a Police Officer | |
| Week 5 | 9/24 | Text – Chapter 5 <i>(Presentations)</i> | The Police Role and Police Discretion | |
| Week 6 | 10/1 | Text – Chapter 6 | Police Culture, Personality and Stress | Guest Speaker |
| Week 7 | 10/8 | Mid-Term Exam | | |
| Week 8 | 10/15 | Fall Break – no class | | |
| Week 9 | 10/22 | Text – Chapter 8 <i>(Presentations)</i> | Police Ethics and Police Deviance | |
| Week 10 | 10/29 | Project – no class | Field Trip or Paper ** | |
| Week 11 | 11/5 | Text – Chapter 9 <i>(Presentations)</i> | Patrol Operations | |
| Week 12 | 11/12 | Text – Chapter 9 (cont'd) | | |
| Week 13 | 11/19 | Text – Chapter 10 <i>(Presentations)</i> | Investigations | Guest Speaker |
| Week 14 | 11/26 | Text – Chapter 12 <i>Research/Field Trip Paper DUE</i> | Community Policing | |
| Week 15 | 12/3 | 21 st Century Policing Report | | |
| Week 16 | 12/10 | Reading Day – no class | | |
| | 12/17 | Final Exam | 7:30pm – 10:15pm | |

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| **Field Trip Tentative Date is Saturday Nov. 2 | Located at: 444 E Street NW Washington, DC 20001 |
| National Law Enforcement Museum | Approx. Cost - \$26.00 |

V. Required Reading

An Introduction to Policing, V2, 9th Edition John S. Dempsey, Linda S. Forst, Steven B. Carter

<https://www.cengage.com/c/an-introduction-to-policing-9e-dempsey/?filterBy=Student>

Written by law enforcement veterans with extensive experience in all areas of policing, this comprehensive resource blends practical information with pertinent theory. The authors examine such current topics as the Black Lives Matter movement, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and advances in policing technology, and present the latest research plus current applications, statistics, court cases and information on law enforcement careers.

Student will use the Cengage MindTap 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 Cengage MindTap can be found in the MindTap folder in the Content area of Blackboard. Once the subscription is activated, students will only have to log into Blackboard to access the digital platform.

MindTap offers a free 2-week trial prior to purchase. This will allow you to access and become familiar with the subscription prior to purchase.

Video: MindTap on Blackboard Registration and Login:

<https://play.vidyard.com/yUAP2eFUunPkCeXniVjqcY>

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. Other Reading Assignments

Other readings will be assigned and placed in the Content area of Blackboard to support the textbook 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:

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|--|-------------------|
| Last day to add classes | September 3 |
| Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund | September 9 |
| Drop period begins: 50% Tuition Refund Period Begins | September 10 |
| Final Drop Deadline: Last Day with 50 % Tuition Refund | September 17 |
| Student Self-Withdrawal Period: (100% Tuition Liability) | September 18 - 30 |

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 will 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.