# CRIM 490

**Police Psychology**

**Fall 2019**

**George Mason University**

**Fairfax Campus**

**Monday and Wednesday**

**12:00 – 1:15 PM**

**Buchanan Hall D023**



**Instructor**

**Professor Jack Kitaeff, PhD, JD, FACLM**

Contact Info: [jkitaeff@gmu.edu](mailto: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://masionlive.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 mainly be presented in **lecture format**. There may be class participation exercises as well as relevant documentary media films. Attending lectures on a regular basis will be beneficial to your grade in this course.

# Course Policies:

Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is permitted however; you must let me know you are doing so. Videotaping in any form is not permitted. Laptops, Ipads & Tablets are permitted but must only be used for note taking. Please be respectful of your peers and instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class.

# Attendance/Class Participation:

Students are responsible to attend class. An attendance sheet will be passed around or taken during each class following the break. Students are not permitted to sign the attendance sheet for another student. In-class participation is important and adds to the learning environment. Attendance/class participation will count towards your final grade.

# 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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**Grading:**

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

Midterm Exam: 40 points

Final Exam: 40 points

Ride-Along 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

# Ride-Along Report

# All students are required to participate in a police ride-along tour. It is up to the student to arrange for this experience, and it can be with any law enforcement agency which performs police patrol. The ride-along can occur at any time during the course as long as it done prior to November 18 when the report of your ride-along experience is due. The report must be written in APA format and be from 4 to 6 double spaced pages with 1 inch margins. The report should contain as much information as possible regarding your experience, including the name of the police officer, the name of the agency, the day and times of the patrol, all activities during your tour, your feelings and impressions regarding your experience, and an assessment statement of the value of the exercise.

**Paper Grading Rubric**

Information regarding when, where, for how long, and with whom the ride along took place: **4 points**

Description of police calls and services: **6 points**

Your feelings and assessment: **5 points**

At least 4 pages in length and in APA format: **2 points**

On time paper: **3 points**

(3 points subtracted per **calendar** day of lateness).

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**20 points**

# Exams:

The midterm and final exam will be closed book and 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.

# Privacy Policy:

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please respect everyone’s right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

# Bad Weather and Other Emergencies:

Check Mason’s homepage at [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu/) or call GMU’s closing line at 703-993-1000 to see if classes are cancelled for inclement weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason’s emergency alert system at https://alert.gmu.edu. If I have to cancel class due to an emergency, I will attempt to email you ASAP at your GMU email address.

**Course Schedule**

Aug 26 Introduction to the course.

Aug 28 Chapter 1: History of Police Psychology

Sept 2 No Class

Sept 4 Chapter 1 Continued.

Sept 9 Chapter 2: Police Psychological Consultation Services to Public Safety.

Sept 11 Chapter 2 Continued

Sept 16 Chapter 3: Legal Issues in Hiring and Promotion of Police Officers

Sept 18 Chapter 3 Continued

Sept 23 Chapter 4: Ethical Issues in Police Psychology

Sept 25 Chapter 4 Continued

Sept 30: Chapter 13: Fitness-for-Duty Evaluations

Oct 2 Chapter 13 Continued

Oct 7 Chapter 16: When Cops Kill: Understanding the Psychology of Deadly Force

Oct 9 No Class

Oct 14 No Class (Midterm Exam Study Topics Posted on Blackboard)

Oct 16 **Midterm Exam**

Oct 21 Chapter 18: Hostage Negotiations

Oct 23 Chapter 24: Suicide in Law Enforcement

Oct 28 Chapter 24 Continued

Oct 30 Chapter 25: Psychological Strategies for Helping Officers Under Investigation,

Criminal Prosecution, or Civil Litigation

Nov 4 Chapter 25 Continued

Nov 6 Chapter 26: Evidence-Based Psychological Interventions to Promote Officer

Resiliency

Nov 11 Chapter 26 Continued

Nov 13 Chapter 27: Critical Incident Reactions and Early Interventions

Nov 18 Chapter 27 Continued. **Ride-along Reports Due in Class**.

Nov 20 Chapter 28: Critical Knowledge for Clinicians Debriefing Critical Incidents

Nov 25 Chapter 28 Continued

Nov 27 No Class

Dec 2 Review for Final Exam

Dec 4 Study Day

Dec 16 **Final Exam**: 10:30 – 1:15, same room.