

**CRIM 401, Section-003: Policing in America, CRN 21824**  
Spring 2020: Tuesday, 4:30 PM to 7:10 PM, Johnson Hall #134  
George Mason University, Prince William Science & Technology Campus

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**Instructor:** Stephen F. Bamford, Term Professor  
Assistant Chief of Police (Retired)

**Office:** Prince William Campus, Colgan Hall 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, #414

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment (Colgan Hall #414)

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### **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 may also be included in the links below.

General University Information / Weather: [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)

Office of Disability Services: [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services: [caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)

English Language Institute: [eli.gmu.edu](http://eli.gmu.edu)

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.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.

**Honor Code Policy:**

All students are expected to be familiar with the University's Honor Code, which may be found in the University Catalog. Ignorance of the policy is not a valid excuse and all violations will be reported.

The Honor Code is as follows:

*“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”*

**Extent of the Honor Code:**

The Honor Code at George Mason University shall be specifically concerned with cheating or attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in an academic setting.

Cheating includes using unauthorized material and/or unauthorized assistance in academic work. Plagiarism includes self-plagiarism, inadequate citation, false citation, and failure to adhere to citation forms set by the professor.

Stealing includes but is not limited to the following:

- Removing an exam from the classroom
- Taking pictures of or copying the exam and/or academic work
- Taking someone's work without their knowledge

Lying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Making up sources, data, information, etc.
- Giving a false excuse for missing a test or a class
- Telling a professor or a teaching assistant false information
- Falsifying official correspondence

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity, to include lying, cheating or stealing. (See "Honor System and Code" in the George Mason University Catalog) Students who present false information will be treated in accordance with the University's Policies.

### **Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence:**

George Mason University is committed to providing a safe learning, living and working environment free from discrimination. The University's environment is meant to be experienced as vibrant and dynamic, and one that includes ample opportunities for exploration of self, identity and independence. Sexual misconduct and incidents of interpersonal violence deeply interrupt that experience, and George Mason University is committed to a campus that is free of these types of incidents in order to promote community well-being and student success.

George Mason University encourages individuals who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support.

Confidential resources are available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services ([caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)), Student Health Services ([shs.gmu.edu](http://shs.gmu.edu)), the University Ombudsperson ([ombudsman.gmu.edu](http://ombudsman.gmu.edu)), and Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services ([waves.gmu.edu](http://waves.gmu.edu)).

All other members of the University community (except those noted above) are not considered confidential resources and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

For a full list of resources, support opportunities, and reporting options, contact the University Title IX Coordinator at; [integrity.gmu.edu](http://integrity.gmu.edu) and/or at 703-993-8730. Our goal is to create awareness of the range of options available to you and provide access to resources.

### **Add/Drop Period:**

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund	January 5, 2020
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Partial Refund	January 11, 2020

## **Course Description and Objectives:**

The course is designed to examine and explore the institutions, processes and people responsible for providing police services (Law enforcement) in America. We will begin with a historical perspective surrounding the origins of policing, through the development of today's American system of policing. The course will identify and discuss the major milestones associated with policing, to include the social,

political, legal and technological influences and advances in policing. Furthermore, we will identify and explore many of the challenges associated with policing and the lessons we have learned and those we have yet to identify and overcome. This learning experience will be accomplished through a thoughtful and careful presentation of information, through the text “Policing America”, lectures, guest speakers, classroom discussion and the presentation of relevant and current topics in policing America.

Throughout the course, we will engage in various “debates” as to fully explore the merits from all sides of policies or issue confronting the extreme challenges with policing American communities and cities today social climate and all its expectations and limitations. These issues include, but are not limited to; police legitimacy, racial profiling, and use of force, arrest, police and prosecutorial misconduct, community policing, hiring and retention of personnel, patrol, the use of technology and investigative strategies, as well as more contemporary matters such as the privacy issues (*data*), immigration reform/enforcement and gun control. *Some of the issues discussed often evoke strong emotions with socially adverse ideology, creation of public policy and the implementation of offensive strategies and practices. But, in order to educate ourselves, we must have insightful debate of such “ugly topics”. This is a reminder to all students to be respectful to others, their opinions and be open to other perspectives during these discussions.*

### Examinations:

03/03/2020	Mid -term examination	40% of total grade
05/12/2020	Final examination	40% of total grade

Examinations will normally consist of both “objective” questions and material, such as, multiple choice, true/false, there may also be some short answer and essay type questions depending on the material covered and the insightful nature of the topics left open for interpretation. Makeup exams will be allowed only when the student provides written verification of personal illness, death/serious illness, or other emergency in the family. Makeup exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor. **Students will need to bring “Scantron” Testing Cards to each exam.**

### Class Participation / Group Exercise:

Two critical if not indispensable ingredients of an insightful policing course is preparation and candid class discussion. On the former, it is important that the materials highlighted in the Schedule of Topics be read as a pre-requisite to attending class. About the latter point, it is my intention to involve students in class discussion and debate as a matter of course. This will necessitate student preparation.

Students will work in a group environment to examine scenarios and offer viewpoints, challenges and potential resolution (fixes) to what is wrong with policing in America today. This exercise is intended for students to test their knowledge and understanding of key policing from the text, readings and lectures while addressing the sensitive issues confronting the profession of “Policing” today. To that end, there will be a group project and group presentations at the end of the semester (See class schedule). **Group assignments will be made, and topics discussed during class on January 28, it is imperative that you come to class this day to be assigned to a project group.** The assignments and presentations will consist of a review of a variety of “policing issues” choose a policing topic, clearly identifying the problem, the cause(s), possible solutions and presenting the information to the class for discussion. A more detailed description of the process and topics will be provided to each student at the time the groups and topics are assigned. The purpose of the exercises is to supplement dialogue that occurs in class to facilitate a better understanding of the subject matter. Instruction for this project are located in Appendix-I in the “assignment” section of the course *Blackboard* site.

## Overall Grading:

Two examinations @ 40% each = 80%  
Participation and group project = 20%

**The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for CRIM 401, Sec.001:**

A	100 – 94 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	93.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 84 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	83.9 – 80 %		

## Text:

**Required:** Peak, Kenneth J & Sousa, William H., Policing America; Challenges and Best Practices, 9th Edition, (2018), Pearson Education Inc., New York, NY

Student may also choose to purchase an e-book copy of the text.

**Paperback Text ISBN 13: 978-0-13-452695-9**

## Spring 2020 Class Schedule:

Revised: 01/5/2020

As set forth below, the topics to be covered during the semester have been grouped by chapters. In preparing for class it is recommended that the material be read and organized in that manner. It should also be noted that it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of assignments, changes to the schedule, etc., all of which will be announced with adequate notice during class.

- Jan. 21, Introduction to Course Syllabus;  
Chapter One (1): History: From English origins to the U.S.**
- Jan. 28, Chapter Two (2): Preparing for the street: Recruitment, training and Socialization  
Group Assignments – **class attendance required****
- Feb. 4, Chapter Three (3): On Patrol Methods and Menaces**
- Feb. 11, Chapter Four (4): Community Policing: Guardians or soldiers?**
- Feb. 18, Chapter Five (5): Criminal Investigations – Science of sleuthing**
- Feb. 25, Chapter Six (6): Personnel Issues and Labor Relations**
- March 3, MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Chapters 1 through 5)**
- March 10, NO CLASS...SPRING BREAK... 😊**

**March 17, Chapter Seven (7): Rule of Law: Expounding the Constitution (Bill of Rights)**

**March 24, Chapter Eight (8): Accountability: Ethics, Discretion and Misconduct**

**March 31. Chapter Nine (9): Civil Liability & Public Trust**

**April 7, Chapter Ten (10) & Chapter Eleven (11): Federal, State and Municipal Agencies**

**April 14, Chapter Thirteen (13): Policing Special Populations**

**April 21, Chapter Fourteen (14): Information Technology: Uses, contributions and caveats**

**April 28, Group Project Presentations; (Groups 1 through 4)**

**May 5, Group Project Presentations; (Groups 5 through 10) & Final Exam Review**

**May 12, FINAL EXAMINATION (Chapters 6 through 11 & 13)  
4:30 – 7:15 PM as indicated in GMU Exam schedule; spring 2020**