

**CRIM 401, DL1: Policing in America, CRN 19135**  
Spring 2021: **On-line Asynchronous** (January 25, through May10, 2021)  
George Mason University, Prince William Science & Technology Campus

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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 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	February 12, 2021
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Partial Refund	February 16, 2021
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) No Refund	February 17, 2021

## **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 strategies and practices. However, to educate and enlighten ourselves, we must have insightful debate of such "ugly topics". This serves as a reminder to all students to be respectful to others, their opinions and be open to other perspectives during these discussions.*

### **Examinations:**

<b>03/10/2020</b>	Mid -term examination	40% of total grade
<b>05/05/2020</b>	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.

### **Exam Instructions:**

Once you log into the exam via the *Blackboard* link in "Assignments" section of the course page, you will have **two attempts** to complete the exam. This means that you can leave and log-in only twice, including your initial log-in. I would recommend that you try to complete the exam in one sitting and use the "second attempt" and an emergency in the event you lose connectivity or experience other technical issues. Please make sure you have ample time and connectivity to complete this exam before attempting it. These instructions apply to both the midterm exam and final exam for the spring session of CRIM 401 – DL1.

- **The exam will open on the date specified in the class schedule at 6:00 am and close at 11:59 pm on the same day.**
- **Just as in an in-class exam, you will be expected to complete the exam in the specified time during the day the exam is given; You will have 2.5 hours (150 minutes) to complete the exam once you start it.**
- **If, for some reason you leave the exam, you will have the remaining balance of the time to complete it during your second and final attempt. The test will begin where you left off after the last question answered.**
- **Once you complete the exam and click... [SAVE & SUBMIT] your answers will be scored and graded**
- **You will see a raw score after you complete the exam. A few days later, after the exam has closed you will be able to view the question and correct answer detail for your test.**

## Field Assignment (Ride-along) & Alternate Assignment

Two critical if not indispensable ingredients of an insightful policing course are 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, it is my intention to involve students experiencing the role of policing in American communities. To accomplish this, students will be required to do either a ride-along with an area police department of their choice and at a time and location of their choosing, or the Alternate Assignment, a “Career Plan”. If you are able (COVID-19 Restrictions) to participate in the ride-along, you will ask questions of the officer(s) to complete a questionnaire and short essay about their experience. Use this time wisely, be curious, probing, and thoughtful regarding this assignment. This is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the career and the department.

Instruction for this Field Assignment project are located along with other relevant information and questionnaire in the “Assignment” section on the course page on *Blackboard*.

In the event you are unable to conduct the Ride-along assignment because of COVID-19 restrictions, I have posted instructions for an “Alternate Assignment” (Career Plan) which does not require a Ride-along or other interactions. Instruction for this Alternate Assignment located in the “Assignment” section on the course page on *Blackboard*. You may choose either of these assignments to complete for 20% of your final grade.

### Overall Grading:

Two examinations @ 40% each = 80%  
Assignment: Ride-along or Alternate Assignment = 20%

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

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 2021 Class Schedule – On-line Asynchronized Application

As set forth below, the subject matter that will be covered during the semester has been grouped by chapters. While 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 to the class.

**This course will be delivered in an “Asynchronous” format; meaning, we will not meet on-line at any given or defined time. The material will be posted at the beginning of the week as indicated in the schedule below and students are responsible for reviewing, readings and watching the material as applicable.**

Students should pay special attention to the dates/activities indicated in “red” as they are time sensitive. The material will be located on the GMU Blackboard course page under the following folders: Syllabus, Course Content, and Assignments, corresponding with the dates as indicated in the schedule below.

### **WEEK OF:**

- January 25, Introduction to Course Syllabus  
Chapter One (1): Origin and History of Policing in America.
- February 1, Chapter Two (2): Preparing for the street: Recruitment, training, and Socialization.
- Feb. 8, Chapter Three (3): On Patrol; Methods and Menaces.
- Feb. 15, Chapter Four (4): Community Policing: Guardians or soldiers?
- Feb. 22, Chapter Five (5): Criminal Investigations – Science of sleuthing.
- March 1, Exam Review and Video Assignment: “16 Shots” The Laquan MacDonald Story (Showtime Documentary)
- March 10, MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1 through 5) – Blackboard Assignment**
- March 15, Chapter Six (6): Personnel Issues and Labor Relations
- March 22, Chapter Seven (7): Rule of Law: Expounding the Constitution (Bill of Rights), 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment issues:  
*Guest Speaker: The Honorable Richard Conway, Chief Deputy, Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, (Retired)*
- March 29, Chapter Eight (8): Accountability: Ethics, Discretion and Misconduct
- April 5, Chapter Nine (9): Civil Liability & Public Trust
- April 12, Chapter Ten (10): Federal, State and Municipal Agencies

**April 19,** Chapter Thirteen (13): Policing Special Populations...  
**Ride-alone or Alternate Assignment due:** Email paper by COB to;  
[sbamford@gmu.edu](mailto:sbamford@gmu.edu)

**April 26,** Final Exam Review (Last day of Class)

**May 5,** FINAL EXAM (Chapters 6 through 10 & 13) – **Blackboard Assignment Folder**

Revised: 01/05/2021