# CRIM 490-DL2

**Police Psychology**

**Spring 2021**

**George Mason University**

**Fairfax Campus**



**Instructor**

**Professor Jack Kitaeff, PhD, JD**

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 be presented in audio recorded lecture and Power Point format.

# 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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should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester

are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website at

registrar.gmu.edu.)  
   
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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 April 26, 2021 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 exams will be online and open-book. The exams 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.

**Course Schedule**

Week of January 25: Introduction to the course.

Week of February 1: Chapter 1: History of Police Psychology

Week of February 8: Chapter 2: Police Psychological Consultation Services to Public Safety.

Week of February 15: Chapter 3: Legal Issues in Hiring and Promotion of Police Officers

Week of February 22: Chapter 4: Ethical Issues in Police Psychology

Week of March 1: Chapter 13: Fitness-for-Duty Evaluations

Week of March 8: Chapter 16: When Cops Kill: Understanding the Psychology of Deadly Force

March 15: **Midterm Exam** (9:00 am through 11:59 PM)

Week of March 22: Chapter 18: Hostage Negotiations

Week of March 29: Chapter 24: Suicide in Law Enforcement

Week of April 5: Chapter 25: Psychological Strategies for Helping Officers Under Investigation, Criminal Prosecution, or Civil Litigation

Week of April 12: Chapter 26: Evidence-Based Psychological Interventions to Promote Officer

Resiliency

Week of April 19: Chapter 27: Critical Incident Reactions and Early Interventions

April 26: **Ride-along Reports Due**

May 7: **Final Exam**: 9:00 am through 11:59 PM