

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

**Spring 2022**

**Instructor:** Patrick J. Gallop, Jr.

**Email:** pgallop2@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Class Time:** Thursday 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

**Location:** Fairfax Campus – Horizon Hall 1012

**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. Throughout the course, we engage in various discussions to fully explore 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing as it relates to today's challenging social climate with all its expectations and limitations.

\*\*\*Some of the issues discussed during this course may 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 “emotional and often stressful topics.” As a former law enforcement practitioner and your professor, I require you to treat your fellow students and guests with respect. In addition, be open to the opinions of your fellow students and guests because their experiences may provide you with a new perspective on the topics we are researching in this course.

**II. Course Requirements and Grading**

Your course grade will be based on your performance within the following areas:

- 25% - 5 Reflection Papers (each paper worth 5pts) – *There will be 5 reflections papers required by each student throughout the semester. Each reflection paper will be a 200-*

250 word summary of 2 main points from the assigned readings. The student must define the main point(s) they have identified and answer “why is it relevant to policing in America?” The student must submit this paper on Blackboard by 11:59pm Wednesday of the assigned due date.

- 30% - Group Project – this assignment is a group project that will be presented as a group to the class. Group assignments will be made, and topics discussed during class on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, it is imperative that you come to class this day to be assigned to a project group. A more detailed description of the process and topics will be provided to each student at the time the groups and topics are assigned.
- 30% - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Paper - an original 3-5 page paper, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt Font, on one of the six pillars identified in the *Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing* ([http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive\\_summary\\_policing\\_task\\_force.pdf](http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive_summary_policing_task_force.pdf)). The student will select one of the six pillars from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report. The student will provide an explanation as to why this pillar is important to them and the community. The student will discuss how this pillar can be achieved to ensure law enforcement meets the expectations defined in this course and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report. The paper should use class readings and discussion to form a position on the selected topic. In addition to the assigned text and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report, students are required to cite at least one other source. Papers will be written using the APA formatting and style guide (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/helpful-links>). Submit paper on Blackboard by the end of class on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 15% - Participation –class participation.

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

### III. Grading Scale

LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

#### IV. Schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1 Jan 27th	First Day of Class Introduction/Syllabus Overview; Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Policing ( <a href="http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive_summary_policing_task_force.pdf">http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive_summary_policing_task_force.pdf</a> )
Week 2 Feb 3rd	Chapter 1 – History: From English Origins to the United States; <b>Select Group Project Teams</b> ; An Evidence-Assessment of the Recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Policing (only need to read summaries of each Pillar) <a href="https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/i-i/IACP%20GMU%20Evidence%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL.pdf">https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/i-i/IACP%20GMU%20Evidence%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL.pdf</a>
Week 3 Feb 10th	Chapter 2 – Preparing for the Street: Recruitment, Training, and Socialization; Active Listening ( <a href="https://inpublicsafety.com/2017/08/eight-ways-police-can-improve-active-listening-skills/">https://inpublicsafety.com/2017/08/eight-ways-police-can-improve-active-listening-skills/</a> )
Week 4 Feb 17th	Chapter 3 – On Patrol: Methods and Menaces; Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing ( <a href="https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newLDR_86.htm">https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newLDR_86.htm</a> ) ***complete Free DISC assessment and bring results to class next week.
Week 5 Feb 24th	Chapter 4 – Community Policing: “Guardians,” or “Soldiers”?; Take DISC Assessment ( <a href="https://discpersonalitytesting.com/free-disc-test/">https://discpersonalitytesting.com/free-disc-test/</a> ) ***only the <u>FREE</u> DISC Assessment – <b>bring results to class</b>
Week 6 Mar 3rd	<i>Theories of Criminal Investigation</i> by Robin P. Bryant. Tong, S., Bryant, R. P., & Horvath, M. A. H. (2009). Understanding criminal investigation. ProQuest Ebook Central <a href="http://ebookcentral.proquest.com">http://ebookcentral.proquest.com</a> Created from gmU on 2020-11-13 06:53:04.; What is a Law Enforcement Interview?
Week 7 Mar 10th	<i>Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness</i> by Irwin M. Cohen, Amanda V. McCormick, and Bob Rich. Cohen, McCormick. “Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness.” <i>Policing: a journal of policy and practice</i> 13.2 (2019): 213–229. Web.; Guest Speaker – FBI SSA Michael Vanmeter (Retired)
Week 8 Mar 17th	NO CLASSES
Week 9 Mar 24th	Chapter 7 - Rule of Law: Expounding the Constitution; What is a Cognitive Interview?

- Week 10 Mar 31st *Police Ethics and Integrity: Can a New Code Overturn the Blue Code?*  
 Louise Westmarland & Michael Rowe (2018) Police ethics and integrity: can a new code overturn the blue code?, Policing and Society, 28:7, 854-870, DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2016.1262365  
 Detecting Lies and Deception – Statement Analysis  
 Guest Speaker – FBI SSA Frank Runles (Retired)
- Week 11 Apr 7th What is an Insider Threat Program?;  
 US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation - [insider\\_threat\\_brochure.pdf](#)
- Week 12 Apr 14th **Group Presentation** – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Week 13 Apr 21st **Group Presentation** – Local Police Department
- Week 14 Apr 28th **Group Presentation** – United States Secret Service (USSS)
- Week 15 May 5th **21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Paper DUE**

## V. Text:

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

## 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:**

Last day to add classes: January 31

Last Day to Drop with 100% Tuition Refund: February 7

Last Day to Drop with 50% Tuition Refund: February 14

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period 100% Tuition Liability: February 15 – March 1

Selective Withdrawal Period (100% Tuition Liability): March 2 – April 11

**Class Cancellations:**

Check Mason's homepage ([www.gmu.edu](http://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.