

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

Spring 2023

Instructor: Patrick J. Gallop, Jr.

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Time: Thursday 7:20 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Fairfax Campus – Horizon Hall 1010

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 21st 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:

- 30% - Course Quizzes – *There will be 4 in-class quizzes that will be open book and open notes. The students will be allowed to use the internet for the quizzes. The students will*

be allowed to leave the classroom to complete the assigned quiz; however, the quiz must be turned in by the end of class.

- **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 2nd**, 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.
- **25% - 21st Century Policing Paper** - an original 4-6 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 21st Century Policing* (http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive_summary_policing_task_force.pdf). The student will select one of the six pillars from the 21st 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 21st 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 21st 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 4th.
- **15% - Participation** –*class participation.*

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

III. Grading Scale

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 %		

IV. Schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1 Jan 26th	First Day of Class Introduction/Syllabus Overview; Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21 st Century Policing (http://www.americanbarfoundation.org/uploads/cms/documents/executive_summary_policing_task_force.pdf)
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- Week 2 Feb 2nd Chapter 1 – History: From English Origins to the United States; **Select Group Project Teams**; An Evidence-Assessment of the Recommendations of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing (only need to read summaries of each Pillar)
<https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/i-i/IACP%20GMU%20Evidence%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>
- Week 3 Feb 9th Chapter 2 – Preparing for the Street: Recruitment, Training, and Socialization; Active Listening (<https://inpublicsafety.com/2017/08/eight-ways-police-can-improve-active-listening-skills/>)
 QUIZ #1
- Week 4 Feb 16th Chapter 3 – On Patrol: Methods and Menaces; Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing
https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newLDR_86.htm
 ***complete Free DISC assessment and bring results to class next week.
- Week 5 Feb 23rd Chapter 4 – Community Policing: “Guardians,” or “Soldiers”?; Take DISC Assessment (<https://discpersonalitytesting.com/free-disc-test/>)
 ***only the FREE DISC Assessment – **bring results to class**
- Week 6 Mar 2nd *Theories of Criminal Investigation* by Robin P. Bryant. Tong, S., Bryant, R. P., & Horvath, M. A. H. (2009). Understanding criminal investigation. ProQuest Ebook Central <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com> Created from gmu on 2020-11-13 06:53:04.;
 What is a Law Enforcement Interview?
 QUIZ #2
- Week 7 Mar 9th *Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness* by Irwin M. Cohen, Amanda V. McCormick, and Bob Rich.
 Cohen, McCormick. “Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness.” *Policing : a journal of policy and practice* 13.2 (2019): 213–229. Web.;
 Guest Speaker – FBI SSA Michael Vanmeter (Retired)
- Week 8 Mar 16th NO CLASSES
- Week 9 Mar 23rd Chapter 7 - Rule of Law: Expounding the Constitution; What is a Cognitive Interview?
 QUIZ #3
- Week 10 Mar 30th *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 6th What is an Insider Threat Program?;
US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation -
[insider threat brochure.pdf](#)
QUIZ #4
- Week 12 Apr 13th **Group Presentation** – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Week 13 Apr 20th **Group Presentation** – Local Police Department
- Week 14 Apr 27th **Group Presentation** – United States Secret Service (USSS)
- Week 15 May 4th **21st 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 ISBN-13: 978-0134526959 (****you do not need to purchase this textbook as most of the required textbook information will already have a copy of the material available on the course's Blackboard site*)

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 30

Last Day to Drop with 100% Tuition Refund: February 6

Last Day to Drop with 50% Tuition Refund: February 13

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period 100% Tuition Liability: February 14 – February 27

Selective Withdrawal Period (100% Tuition Liability): February 28 – April 3

Class Cancellations:

Check Mason's homepage (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.