

**CRIM 401 – 001 Policing in America**  
*College of Humanities and Social Sciences*  
*Criminology, Law, and Society*  
*George Mason University*

**Spring 2024**

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

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment (always available 30 minutes before and after class)

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

**Location:** Fairfax Campus – Peterson Hall 1105

**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:

- 30% - 3 Reflection Papers – There will be 3 reflection papers assigned during the semester. The reflection paper will require the students to analyze and reflect on one of

the weekly reading assignments. The student does not need to include references for these 3 written assignments.

- **Suggested format**

- Identify which article you are reflecting on and provide a short synopsis of the article
- How does this particular article impact one of the six pillars of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing
- Why is this important to you?

The reflection paper must be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt Font, and between 250-400 words. The reflection paper must be submitted into Blackboard by 10p the next day. For every day the reflection paper is late, you will lose 1 point out of 10 possible points.

- 30% - Panel Discussion Project – this assignment is an individual assignment; however, you are allowed to collaborate with the other panelists on in your group. Panel Discussion Group assignments will be made and topics discussed during class on **January 25**, it is imperative that you come to class this day to be assigned to a Panel Discussion Group. A more detailed description of the process and topics will be provided to each student at the time the panel groups and topics are assigned. If you decide to work as a team, please submit your team's presentation into Blackboard by 10p on Wednesday April 3rd. If you decide to work alone on this project, please submit your research notes into Blackboard by 10p on Wednesday April 3rd. For every day this deliverable is late, you will lose 3 points out of 30 possible points.
- 25% - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Paper - an **original 5-6 page paper (a cover sheet, 3-4 pages of content, and a reference page)**, 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 April 25<sup>th</sup>. For every day your final paper is late you will lose 5 points out of 25 possible points.
- 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 18	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 Jan 25	Chapter 1 – History: From English Origins to the United States; <b>Select Groups for PANEL DISCUSSION</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 1	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> ) ***complete Free DISC assessment and bring results to class next week. REFLECTION PAPER #1
Week 4 Feb 8	Chapter 3 – On Patrol: Methods and Menaces; Take DISC Assessment ( <a href="https://discpersonalitytesting.com/free-disc-test/">https://discpersonalitytesting.com/free-disc-test/</a> ) ***only the <b>FREE</b> DISC Assessment – <b>bring results to class</b>
Week 5 Feb 15	<b>NO CLASS – PANEL DISCUSSION WORK!!!</b> Use this time to work on the Panel Discussion questions. Feel free to meet with other members of your Panel Discussion Team or work by yourself. You can meet in the classroom; library; Johnson Center; etc.
Week 6 Feb 22	Chapter 4 – Community Policing: “Guardians,” or “Soldiers”?; 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> )

Week 7 Feb 29	<p><i>Theories of Criminal Investigation</i> by Robin P. Bryant. Tong, S., Bryant, R. P., &amp; 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.;</p> <p>What is a Law Enforcement Interview?</p> <p>REFLECTION PAPER #2</p>
Week 8 Mar 7	SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS
Week 9 Mar 14	<p><i>Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness</i> by Irwin M. Cohen, Amanda V. McCormick, and Bob Rich.</p> <p>Cohen, McCormick. "Creating a Culture of Police Officer Wellness." <i>Policing : a journal of policy and practice</i> 13.2 (2019): 213–229. Web.;</p> <p>Guest Speaker – FBI SSA Michael Vanmeter (Retired)</p>
Week 10 Mar 21	<p>Chapter 7 - Rule of Law: Expounding the Constitution;</p> <p>What is a Cognitive Interview?</p>
Week 11 Mar 28	<p><i>Police Ethics and Integrity: Can a New Code Overturn the Blue Code?</i> Louise Westmarland &amp; Michael Rowe (2018) Police ethics and integrity: can a new code overturn the blue code?, <i>Policing and Society</i>, 28:7, 854-870, DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2016.1262365</p> <p>Detecting Lies and Deception – Statement Analysis</p> <p>Guest Speaker – FBI SSA Frank Runles (Retired)</p> <p>REFLECTION PAPER #3</p>
Week 12 Apr 4	Panel Discussion – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Week 13 Apr 11	Panel Discussion – Fairfax County Police Department
Week 14 Apr 18	Panel Discussion – United States Secret Service (USSS)
Week 15 Apr 25	<p>NO CLASS --- Instructor will be available in the classroom to answer any questions. <b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Paper DUE</b></p>

## 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

## 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 23

Last Day to Drop with 100% Tuition Refund: January 30

Last Day to Drop with 50% Tuition Refund: February 6

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period 100% Tuition Liability: February 7 – February 20

Selective Withdrawal Period (100% Tuition Liability): February 21 – March 25

### 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.