

**CRM 355: Current Issues in Policing**  
**Course Syllabus: Fall 2016**

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**Course Description**

This course addresses a selection of contemporary issues and controversies facing police officers and law enforcement agencies. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to, problem-oriented and community policing, police use of force, racial profiling, leadership in law enforcement, and police corruption.

Prerequisite courses include CRM 210, CRM 250, CRM 260, and CRM 270.

As learned in the prerequisite courses, policing is a complex, multifaceted social phenomenon; it is simultaneously a social institution (i.e., public law enforcement), a billion dollar industry (e.g., the private policing and private security industries), a social sorting mechanism (e.g., racial profiling and the school-to-prison pipeline), and a cultural practice embedded in everyday life (e.g., surveillance). This course is designed to explore the challenges facing both police (individually and as an organization) and society by fully exploring a selection of contemporary issues and controversies facing police officers, law enforcement agencies, and modern society from a multidisciplinary approach. Topics covered will vary on class interest and *may include, but are not limited to:*

- Strategies and practices (e.g., problem-oriented and community policing, use of force, racial profiling)
- Leadership in law enforcement
- Minority populations (e.g., sex, race, sexual orientation) in law enforcement
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Misconduct and corruption
- Homeland security
- Immigration
- Militarization of police
- Challenges of the profession (e.g., stress, family, change in personality, conformity)
- Nature of the relationship between the police and society
- Technology and social media
- Private industry
- Police subculture

**Required Readings**

Assigned readings with corresponding dates are clearly posted within each Blackboard Module and on the Course Schedule. Required class readings will either:

- Be posted by the professor within the Modules
- Need to be obtained by the student\*

*\*You are required participate in a graded Virtual Library Instruction Session within the first week to ensure that you are able to acquire the requisite materials (see Course Schedule and Module 1).*

## **Online Format, Expectations, & Requirements**

- This undergraduate course is solely online; attendance in-person is not required.
- The recommended browser is Google Chrome.
- Students are to read and/or view the material for that week and complete assessments on time.
- All due dates are posted in the Course Schedule and on Blackboard.

Student participation is critical for a successful and productive learning experience, and students are expected to draw from course materials, assessments, and activities in order to contribute. Class success is dependent on both the: 1) professor's abilities and talents as teacher to communicate ideas and 2) ability of the class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. Disruptive behaviors in any classroom environment cheat other students out of opportunities to learn. Examples include not posting assignments, posting inappropriate material, harassment, and rude and inappropriate comments. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated, and those engaging in such behaviors will be removed from the online classroom. See Course Jurisdiction section (Page 6).

## **Student Learning Goals**

### Course Objectives

This course will provide students a strong foundation of the role of police in society and an understanding of the processes and institutions of justice, which contribute to more effective and enlightened citizenship. At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and explain challenges facing police offices within the institution, as well as in society
  - Evaluate and develop policies related to these issues
- Identify, describe, and evaluate strategies, tactics, and methods in policing
- Describe the role of law enforcement in democratic societies
- Compare and evaluate emerging and international forms of policing
- Recognize and identify competing explanations for seemingly simple phenomena
- Recognize the power in the police occupation and how to avoid abusing this power
- Describe how a police officer impacts lives and the crucial role of ethics for police officers

### General Education Goals

In addition to the above objectives, the more general goals of this course are to provide the student with the following tools to help develop his/her potential:

- Use the library to search for materials
- Produce original work without plagiarizing
- Properly employ APA formatting
- Enhance literacy (both reading and writing) and oral communication skills through assigned readings, discussions, assessments, and presentations
- Develop analytical thinking capabilities through compare/contrast and evaluation activities
- Utilize the historical perspective through examinations of evolutionary developments over time
- Identify the scientific method through research requirements and in-depth case studies

- Recognize issues of diversity and human rights through social interaction skills and understanding human behavior through consideration of the impact legal and social systems have on individuals
- Increased awareness of cultural and multi-cultural issues through study of how social problems and social movements are related to, and affect, minority groups
- Value public affairs and ethical leadership

### **Office Hours & Contact**

Student-professor meetings can occur: 1) in person 2) via videoconference 3) via teleconference.

- Office hours are Mondays from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. using these three methods.
  - Every Monday: office hours will be held via video- and tele-conference
  - Certain Mondays: in-person office hours are available (see the Course Schedule)
- I am also available outside of Monday office hours!
  - To set up appointments for any mutually convenient times outside of the Monday office-hour window, please email me.

Please email me with any substantive questions or concerns anytime!

Note, substantive items or issues *do not include* schedules, acquisition of course materials, or technology (e.g., Blackboard). Responses to emails regarding these issues will consist of directions to this section of the Syllabus and/or the:

- Course Schedule
- Blackboard modules
- Library Resources: Blackboard / Services Tab / Library Resources
- Computer Services Help Desk: Blackboard / Services Tab / Help Desk

### **Course Assessments**

#### Activities and Assignments

Throughout the semester, I will ask students to identify and discuss various critical issues in law enforcement, to consider how various concepts relate to specific issues, and to apply certain concepts to evaluate the issues.

These assignments will consist of short assignments submitted to either the instructor only or to discussion board. Instructions will provide specific steps for completion, submission, and grading.

Each entry must be written in APA format and in a formal style similar to what you expect to find in an actual paper, professional report, or academic journal article.

## Three Major Exams

Exams may use true/false, multiple choice, matching, fill in the black, and short-answer questions. These are comprehensive exams in each “unit” of the course based on the assignments materials (readings, video, audio), lectures, class discussions, activities, and all other aspects of the class.

## Final Project

The culmination of this course is a final project due at the end of the semester (see Course Schedule). Detailed information (e.g., components, step-by-step instructions, rubric) will be provided and located in the Final Project Module.

## Course Grading

For the detailed grade and credit point system, please see the following website but disregard the +/- grades: <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html>

This course does not utilize the +/- system. Below are the final grades generally earned in this course.

- **A (4.00) (TA): Outstanding work.** Outstanding achievement relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was of the highest level. Excellence while meeting course objectives was sustained throughout the course. Not only was the student’s performance clearly and significantly above satisfactory, it was also of an independent and creative nature.
- **B (3.00) (TB): Meritorious.** Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements. Performance was very good, although not of the highest level. Performance was clearly and significantly above satisfactory fulfillment of course requirements
- **C (2.00) (TC): Adequate.** Achievement that meets the course requirements. Performance was adequate, although marginal in quality.
- **D (1.00) (TD): Minimum passing work (inadequate).** Achievement barely worthy of credit. Student demonstrated unsatisfactory achievement in meeting course objectives, yet fulfilled a sufficient enough portion of the course objectives that repeating the course is not necessary unless required by the academic unit.
- **F (0.00) (TF): Failed – no credit.** A failure to meet course requirements. The work of course objectives were either: 1) completed but not at a level of achievement that is worthy of credit, or 2) have not been completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I” (incomplete).

Up-to-date grade calculations are always available in this course’s grade center in Blackboard. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<b>Assignments and Percentages</b>	
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final Project	25%
Activities / Assignments	30%
<i>Total</i>	100%

### **Disability Accommodation**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Director Justin Lozano, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), [www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/lcd>.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/).

### **Religious Accommodation**

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

### **Course Calendar**

Please see the Academic Calendar for all MSU deadlines, such as withdrawal, refunds, holidays, grade reporting: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/home/academic/fa2016>

This course relies heavily on the Course Schedule. The Course Schedule is divided into Modules, which are reflected in Blackboard. The full Course Schedule is located in Blackboard. Additionally, schedules for each Module are located within the respective modules.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520. See Academic Calendars ([www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html)) for deadlines.

### **Course Jurisdiction**

The course instructor has original jurisdiction over this class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to participate in this class. A disruption is defined here as anything that distracts the instructor or other students from the online learning experience. Class disruptions can involve (but are not limited to) making rude, insensitive, or threatening comments or using unprofessional language on discussion board. The course instructor may have a student administratively withdrawn from a course upon showing of good cause and with the concurrence of the department head. The appeals process in case of such administrative withdrawal shall be as stated in the academic regulations under "Grade Re-evaluation Based on Performance."

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at [http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3\\_01\\_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.