

# Current Issues in Policing

CRM 355 – Section 001 – Fall 2018

Tue/Thu 12:30 – 1:45 Strong Hall 305

Dr. Patrick R. Gartin

## **Course Description**

This course addresses a selection of contemporary issues and controversies facing police officers and law enforcement agencies. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, recruitment and training, ethics and misconduct, police violence and corruption, problem-oriented and community policing, racial profiling, leadership in law enforcement, and the evolving nature of policing.

## **Required Texts**

*Policing Issues, Challenges and Controversies (Ross, 2012)*

*Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement and Policing (Millie and Das, 2008)*

## **Course Requirements**

Students will be responsible for studying the assigned materials each week and participating in class discussions related to those materials. Attendance and class participation are required and will comprise a substantial portion of the points available in the course. There will also be required online Discussion Board assignments due each week throughout the semester. The term paper will serve as the final exam for the course will be due during final exam week.

## **Grading Policy**

Grades for this course will be based upon points earned for attendance and class participation (5 pts. per class for a total of 150 pts.), scores earned for participation in weekly online Discussion Board forums (25 pts. each for a total of 350 pts.) and a term paper serving as the final exam for the course (500 pts.). Plus/Minus grading will NOT be used in recognition and support of the SGA resolution to abolish this system at MSU. Total points earned in the course will be converted to final letter grades based on the following scale:

900 – 1000 = A

800 – 899 = B

700 – 799 = C

600 – 699 = D

## **Attendance, Class Participation and Make-up Policies**

The University's attendance policy can be found in the 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog located online at <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/attendan.html>. Students enrolled in this course are expected to attend all classes, complete all readings and assignments as scheduled, and actively participate in class discussions. Excused absences and make up coursework will not be allowed unless documentation is provided that shows the absence from class or the missed coursework was the result of either 1) participation in University-sanctioned activities and programs, 2) personal illness, or 3) family and/or other emergencies. Students who fail to contact the instructor within twelve hours of missing a class or an assigned course activity will forfeit the opportunity to make up those points.

### **Email Policy and Office Hours**

Please be advised that I will not respond to email inquiries regarding this course unless they are of an emergency nature or represent the only way for students to contact me. Prior experience has shown that the vast majority of the hundreds of student emails I receive each semester consist of questions that can be readily answered by consulting the course syllabus. Further, the remaining student inquiries generally involve more serious issues that are best dealt with in a face-to-face setting. Thus, to encourage student responsibility in utilizing available course resources such as the syllabus, and to facilitate more effective communication between students and myself, I will require that when possible such communication be made in person. While I encourage students to speak to me either before or after class as a matter of convenience, all other inquiries should be made during my office hours or by appointment. I will be available during my regularly scheduled **office hours from 10:00 to 1:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays in Strong 223** to discuss any issues or concerns you may have. You may also call me at 836-5135 or email me at [PatrickGartin@MissouriState.edu](mailto:PatrickGartin@MissouriState.edu) to schedule an alternate appointment if you are unable to meet during these times. Please see me with any issues or concerns you may have so that we can work to address them before they become problems.

### **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. Students are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus any additional, more specific policies for each class. The University's policy, formally known as the *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, can be accessed and reviewed online at [www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegritystudents.htm) and is also available 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.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop participating in this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will likely 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. You may go to [http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html) to view the Academic Calendars online for relevant drop deadlines.

### **Policy on Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices**

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the [Office of the Provost](#) prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Policy on the Use of Laptops and other Internet-Enabled Devices During Class**

Students who wish to utilize laptops, tablets or other internet-enabled electronic devices for taking notes during class must first request permission from the instructor. To avoid disruption

and distraction, accessing the internet during class on any device will not be allowed. Students who violate this policy will forfeit their attendance points for any class periods involved and may be subject to further sanctions.

### **Policy on Audio and Video Recording of Class Activity**

Students who wish to record lectures or other class activities for study purposes must first request permission from the instructor. Distribution or sale of any such recordings is prohibited without the written consent of the instructor and all other students who are recorded. Any distribution of recordings or other course materials without express permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 4.6, 4.8, 4.9).

### **Statement on Emergency Response Assistance**

In case of severe weather during our scheduled class, we will seek shelter as described below:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Shelter Information</b>
Strong Hall	Evacuate the fourth floor using north and south stairs. Faculty office wing occupants may shelter in interior halls of their area. All other occupants move to basement level using north and south stairwells.

In case the building needs to be evacuated during our scheduled class for events such as fire, gas leak, etc., we will follow the Emergency Assembly Point Instructions below:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Evacuation Information</b>
Strong Hall	Northeast to Glass Hall Room 101; Overflow to rooms 102 and 108

Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their professors and the [Disability Resource Center](#). If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For additional information students should contact the [Disability Resource Center](#), 836-4192 (PSU 405). To review Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan online, please go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

### **Statement on Disability Accommodation**

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

### **Statement on 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.

### **Statement of Non-discrimination**

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 OIEC website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/).

### **Statement on Mental Health, Stress Management, and Suicide Prevention Policy**

As a student you may experience a range of personal issues that can impede learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, having difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. You can learn more about free and confidential Missouri State University Counseling Center services available to assist you at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>. Also, in accordance with Missouri law (Mo. Rev. Stat. §173.1200), Missouri State University has established a new policy regarding Suicide Prevention, Available Suicide Programs and Related Procedures. This policy can be viewed at:

[https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1\\_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm](https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm)

### **Statement on Title IX Policy**

Missouri State University has a Title IX policy that guides our response to instances of sexual violence. Sexual Violence includes: Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Discrimination, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Sexual Harassment and Pregnancy issues. The Title IX policy can be located on the MSU Title IX Office website at [www.missouristate.edu/titleix/](http://www.missouristate.edu/titleix/). This website is also a good resource for any questions or issues involving Title IX and contains contact information for the MSU Title IX Office and staff. Please be aware that if an MSU student discloses a Title IX related issue to a MSU faculty or staff member who is deemed to be a "Responsible Employee" under current policy, that faculty or staff member is required to report such disclosure to the Title IX Coordinator. A Responsible Employee includes any employee who has the authority to take action to redress sexual violence; who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or any other misconduct by students to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee; or whom a student could reasonably believe has the authority or duty to take action. Magers Health employees and MSU Counseling Center Clinicians are not considered to be Responsible

Employees under the policy, and therefore, are not required to report Title IX issues to the Title IX Coordinator.

### **Criminology on Facebook**

Students are encouraged to stay current with activities of the Missouri State University Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice by visiting the Departmental Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Criminology-at-Missouri-State-University-135913129764383/>

### **Discussion Topics and Readings**

The following schedule lists the assigned readings from the required texts. Additional readings or other materials that may be assigned throughout the semester will be posted on Blackboard.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Topics and Readings</u></b>	<b><u>Due</u></b>
TU 08/21 TH 08/23	Course introduction Ross Ch.1	Forum 1
TU 08/28 TH 08/30	Ross Ch. 2 The History of Municipal Policing in the United States Ross Ch. 3 The Mythology of Municipal Policing	Forum 2
TU 09/04 TH 09/06	Ross Ch. 4 Emphasizing Public Relations Over Crime continued	Forum 3
TU 09/11 TH 09/13	Ross Ch. 5 Failure to Properly Investigate continued	Forum 4
TU 09/18 TH 09/20	Ross Ch. 6 Improper Discretion continued	Forum 5
TU 09/25 TH 09/27	Ross Ch. 7 Inability to Significantly Reduce Crime continued	Forum 6
TU 10/02 TH 10/04	Ross Ch. 8 Poor Police-Community Relations continued	Forum 7
TU 10/09 TH 10/11	continued <b>Fall Holiday – No Class</b>	
TU 10/16 TH 10/18	Ross Ch. 9 Deviancy and Corruption continued	Forum 8
TU 10/23 TH 10/25	Ross Ch. 10 – Police Violence/Excessive Force continued	Forum 9
TU 10/30 TH 11/01	Ross Ch.11 Failure to Adopt and/or Properly Use New Technology continued	Forum 10
TU 11/06 TH 11/08	Ross Ch.12 Inability to Properly Manage and Lead continued	Forum 11
TU 11/13 TH 11/15	Ross Ch.13 Co-operation/Collaboration with Other Criminal Justice Agencies continued	Forum 12

TU 11/20	Ross Chs.14 Underfunding & 15 Inadequate Wages and Compensation	
TH 11/22	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class</b>	
TU 11/27	Ross Ch.16 Ineffective/Insufficient Recruitment, Education and Training	
TH 11/29	continued	Forum 13
TU 12/04	Ross Ch. 17 - Working Conditions	
TH 12/06	Ross Ch. 18 - The Future of Policing	Forum 14
TU 12/11	<b>Final Paper Due: 12:00 noon</b>	