

**AJ 102 Section 02  
POLICE AND SOCIETY  
Spring 2000**

Instructor:Edwina Parsons, MPA, Lieutenant (Ret.) Hayward Police  
Office MH527 Office Hours: T and Th 11 a.m.-12 noon  
Office Telephone: 924-2954  
Home Telephone: 510-651-4675

**Text:**

**The Police in the Community** by Linda S. Miller and Karen M. Hess, West/Wadsworth Company  
(second edition 1998)

**Course Objectives:**

1. To expand student knowledge and understanding of issues, problems, and programs rooted in the relationship of criminal justice process (particularly police process), crime and the community.
2. To broaden perspective regarding community responsibility in criminal justice processes.
3. To assist students in their personal maturation as to intergroup attitudes and human relations sensitivities, and to introduce them to some basic skills in community problem-solving.

**Means:**

1. Students will have already been prepared by reading the assignments.
2. Students will receive a presentation from the instructor and participate in questioning. Films, guest speakers, reference materials will be provided.
3. Students will divide into groups for detailed discussions of the assignments, exchange, compare and critique with other team members.
4. Students will evaluate and critique the instructor, who, in turn, will evaluate and critique their performance through the grading system.

**Term Project:**

Students will write an 8 to 10 page assessing police/society relations. See **Term Project**.

**Please Note: University policy is that any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be given a failing grade for the course.**

**Grading:**

Grades will be computed as follows:

Midterm 1. ....	.50 pts.
Midterm 2. ....	.50 pts.
Final Examination. ....	50 pts.
Term Project. ....	50 pts.
Total	200 pts.

**Examination Dates:**

Midterm 1:            **Thursday, March 2**  
Midterm 2:            **Tuesday, April 4**  
Final Exam:           **Wednesday, May 24, 12:15 - 14:30**

## CALENDAR

Assignments and readings listed under homework for a certain date are due or due to be discussed in the following week's classes.

### WEEK OF:

#### January 25

Introductions. What this class will be like. Opening discussion: THE GAME PLAN

Homework: Review syllabus. Chapter 1: The Evolution of Community Policing

#### February 1

Lecture, group exercise. Homework: Chapter 2: The Community

#### February 8

Lecture, reference materials, video. Homework: Chapter 3: The Police

#### February 15

Lecturer, reference materials. Homework: Chapter 4: Problem-solving Policing

#### February 22

Group exercise, lecture. Homework: Chapter 5: Implementing Community Policing

**February 29** video: Verbal Judo. Lecture. Homework: Chapter 5 Implementing Community Policing. Review Chapters 1-5 midterm 1.

### Thursday, March 2 (Midterm 1) Chapters 1-5

#### March 7

Lecture, research materials. Homework: Chapter 6: Dealing Effectively with Diversity and Chapter 7.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR TERM PROJECT DUE MARCH 9

#### March 14

Guest Speaker. Homework: Chapter 8: Interacting with the Physically and Mentally Disabled

#### March 21

Video on disabled. Homework: Chapter 9: Communicating with the Elderly

#### March 28

Lecture: Chapter 10: Communicating with Youth: Victims and Offenders. Homework: Review for midterm 2

### Tuesday, April 4 (Midterm 2) Chapters 6-10

#### April 4

Lecture, group exercise. Homework: Chapter 11: Communicating with Gangs and Gang Members

#### April 11

Video on Gangs. Group exercise. Homework: Chapter 12: Communicating with Victims and Witnesses

#### April 18

Guest speaker. Homework: Chapter 13: Communicating with the Media

## EASTER VACATION

#### April 25

Video: Media. Homework: Chapter 14: Early Experiments in Crime Prevention and Community Policing Strategies

#### May 2

Lecture, Homework: Chapter 15: Criminal Justice Programs and Chapter 16 Programs for Youth

### TERM PROJECT DUE IN CLASS MAY 4

#### May 9

Group project. Review for final. Homework. Chapter 17 Community Policing and Crime Prevention Collaborative Efforts.

FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 24 12:15-14:30

Chapters 11-17

### TERM PROJECT

#### ASSESSING POLICE/SOCIETY RELATIONS

Students will contact a member of a police, city, state, county or federal agency and ask him/her a series of questions relative to the environment of law enforcement in the community and degree of departmental and community levels of tension and/or cooperation.

Students may utilize the listed questions for background information, but also, must provide 10 questions of their own for the interview. These questions are due for my review by **Thursday, March, 9**. The 8 to 10 page paper is due **IN CLASS** on **Thursday, May 4**. Late papers will be penalized 10%.

#### THE ENVIRONMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Has the city council/board of supervisors frequently involved itself in controversies concerning the agency?
2. What is the interest level of the city council/board of supervisors in the agency? Is it generally favorable, generally unfavorable, or largely indifferent to the agency?
3. Do citizens often bring complaints against the agency before the city council/board of supervisors?
4. What type of complaints are most often leveled against the agency?
5. Do citizens bring their complaints to the city council/board of supervisors because they get no satisfaction from the agency?
6. Have community groups in high-crime areas established citizen patrol teams because they feel police protection is failing?
7. In the event of a community crisis are there people or groups to whom you can go for aid in calming tensions or dispelling rumors?
8. Does the agency have access to local sources of private money to finance an important community relations effort when city or federal funding is lacking?
9. Does your city have a private organization that provides benefits to the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty?

#### THE NEWS MEDIA

10. Have the local news media recently taken editorial positions critical of the agency's policies or operations and what were the issues?
11. Is your agency frequently the object of calls to local radio or television citizen talk shows?

#### THE CHANGING URBAN ENVIRONMENT

12. Are there areas of your city where, due to either population density or other reasons, people congregate on street corners during warm weather?
13. Are recreational facilities lacking in some sections of the city, thereby forcing youth to congregate on street corners?

2.

14. Do certain areas of your city experience conflicts between roving gangs of youths?
15. What percentage of your city's population is from minority groups?
16. Are these groups concentrated in certain areas of the city?
17. Do these groups have representatives in the local government in proportion to their numbers?
18. Are the spokesmen for minority groups in your city openly verbal?
19. Have there been political power struggles among disenfranchised groups in your city?
20. Do normal city tensions, minority-group problems, and rumors about political struggles hold the threat of violence in sections of your city?
21. Has there been racial tension within your agency in recent years?
20. Do normal city tensions, minority-group problems and rumors about political struggles hold the threat of violence in sections of your city?
21. Has there been racial tensions within the agency in recent years?
22. Have there been incidents at roll call or over the police radio in which racial slurs or political comments have been made by police officers?

#### **THE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

23. Is there a formal procedure within the department for handling citizen complaints?
24. Are investigation results available to interested community residents?
25. Does your complaint procedure incorporate a means of appeal beyond the police department?
26. Do most arrests for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest occur in certain areas of the city?
27. Do minority group members account for the majority of those arrested on such charges?

#### **SERVICE DEMANDS BY TYPE AND AREA**

28. Does the department's response time vary significantly in different sectors of the city?
30. Are citizens usually willing to cooperate with the police when asked to testify in court?
31. Does the number of resisting arrest complaints filed by your officers constitute more than 3 per cent of total arrests for a year?
32. Do your police officers encounter hostile groups of onlookers when responding to disturbance calls in certain areas?
33. Has there been a rise in the number of assaults on police officers in recent years?
34. If so, have these assaults been concentrated in certain areas of the city?
35. Have some officers, although working the same areas as others, been the object of more frequent assaults?