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Office Hours:

**AJ 209
Seminar in Police**

Course Description

An examination of the historical development, significant changes, and future trends regarding police theory and practice; emphasis is focused on identifying critical issues and evaluating research with respect to police policy and practice.

Course Objectives

To critically analyze contemporary policies and practices regarding the police in a democratic society. This is accomplished through in-class discussions, a test, and preparation and presentation of a research report.

Textbooks and Articles

Roberg, R., Crank, J., and Kuykendall, J. (2000). *Police & Society*, 3rd ed. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

Alpert, G. and Piquero, A. (2000). *Community Policing: Contemporary Readings*, 2nd ed. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland.

Roberg, R. (1994). "Can Today's Police Organizations Effectively Implement Community Policing?" In D. Rosenbaum (ed.), *The Challenge of Community Policing: Testing the Promises*, pp. 249-257. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage.

Course Requirements

1. Read the assigned materials and come to class prepared to discuss and critique the materials; a Most Important Topics (MIT) description for each reading (Alpert & Piquero) is required (see description elsewhere).
2. An in-class open-note (Roberg, Crank & Kuykendall) open-book (Alpert & Piquero) essay exam.
3. Prepare a research paper on an approved contemporary police topic, with an emphasis on policy implications. Make a presentation in class on the research paper, including an outline and reference page(s).

Student Evaluation

Research Paper/Presentation:	50%
Class Participation:	25%
Essay Exam	25%

Class Participation

The class will be conducted in a seminar style; therefore, it is important that you participate in class discussions. It is crucial that the assigned materials be read and "digested" prior to each class meeting in order that you will be able to intelligently discuss their contents and meaning.

A participation requirement is to write down, and to bring to class on a single sheet of paper, what you believe are the **two or three most important topics/concepts (MITs)** in each reading to be covered in the A&P text. These MITs will form the basis for your discussion on the readings. A single page of notes for each chapter on the RC&K text will be allowed for the exam; these notes could be used for participation purposes on this text as well.

Participation will be assessed on a weekly basis and a final participation score/grade will be determined at the end of the class.

Essay Exam

An essay exam on the two texts will be given where one page of notes per chapter will be allowed on the RC&K book (the chapters to be emphasized will be delimited prior to the test) and the A&P book and MITs will be open.

Research Paper

A research paper on a contemporary police related topic (one which you have not previously written on) is required. The paper will summarize the existing literature on the topic, and will analyze the topic from a "what works" policy perspective (i.e., are current policies and procedures adequate? Are new programs or methods needed?). The paper will be graded on organization, coverage of the topic (i.e., literature review), policy implications, grammar, presentation (e.g., spelling, typo's, neatness), and proper references. Of course, the paper should contain no plagiarism.

The **goal of the paper** is to establish relationships between and among important variables and to draw policy implications and conclusions from the empirical research findings.

Requirements

Length: The paper must be no less than 15 pages and no more than 20 doubled spaced pages in length, not including end matter (references and appendix). A typical page is 250 words in length, which means that the paper must be at least 3,750 words.

Style: The American Psychological Association (APA) reference style is required.

Sources: In general, minimum expectations would include 10 sources; at least one-half of which should be empirical/theoretical in nature and published within the last five to seven years. It is possible that some "outside" sources will be necessary to adequately cover the topic (i.e., outside the criminal justice/law enforcement field).

Citations: All sources cited in the paper must be properly noted in a References Section at the end of the paper; that is, make sure all sources used are properly cited.

Paper Presentation

A formal presentation of approximately 20-25 minutes is required (you may wish to use note cards, you should not simply read from your paper). Questions regarding the report (e.g., study designs, findings, policies, etc.) will follow the presentation. A brief outline (1-2 pages) and reference page of sources used will be distributed to the class prior to the presentation.

Due Dates

Final papers are due on the last class meeting (see schedule). Papers can only be late if excusable; otherwise a penalty will be assessed.

Early Review

It is **strongly encouraged** that you turn in a partial paper for **early review** (see schedule); the paper will be critiqued and handed back for final completion.

Paper Format

The paper will be organized according to the following breakdown.

Part I Introduction

Introduction to the topic, possibly including relevance, concepts, definitions, history, and current policies.

Part II Review of Literature

This section primarily describes the research which has been done on the subject, and focuses on defining the major relationships (statistical) between and among important variables. In general, each study will be described with respect to:

- Study design (survey; quasi-experimental; observation)
- Sampling (number of subjects and how chosen)
- Variables measured (independent and dependent; intervening)
- Control variables (demographic, etc.)
- Results

During the description of the research, each study (i.e., its design, sampling, limitations, findings, etc.) should be described separately. You may also wish to use sub-headers in this section in order to separate primary topics; this will allow studies on related topics to be organized coherently.

It should also be noted that some research is more valid and reliable than other research (that is, the better controlled studies), and these should receive the bulk of your attention. For instance, research journals such as *Policing* or *Police Quarterly* generally have empirical investigations while practitioner journals such as *Police Chief* and the *Law Enforcement Bulletin* generally have descriptive research or reporting.

Part III Conclusions and Policy Implications

Overall conclusions of the studies reviewed are drawn. From these conclusions the need for change and revisions with respect to new or revised policies are made. Such changes and revisions should be based on a realistic assessment of what can be accomplished with respect to budget, time, resource constraints, and organizational change processes.

Class Schedule

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Aug. 28	Introduction and Overview
Sept. 4	RC&K: Chaps. 1 & 2 (to pg. 51). A&P: Chaps. 1, 2, & 3
Sept. 11	RC&K: Chaps. 3 & 4 A&P: Chaps. 4, 5 & 6
Sept. 18	RC&K: Chaps. 5 & 6 A&P: 8, 9, & 10
Sept. 25	RC&K: Chapters 7 (to pg. 242) & 8 A&P: 11, 12, & 13 Roberg Article: "Can Today's Police Organizations" Project Topic Due (working title and several references)
Oct. 2	RC&K: Chaps. 9 & 10 A & P: Chaps. 14, 15 & 16 Project Topic Returned
Oct. 9	RC&K: Chaps. 11 & 12 A & P: 18, 19, & 20
Oct. 16	RC&K: Chaps. 13 & 14 A&P: Chaps: 21 & 24 Exam Description/Delimitation
Oct. 23	In-class Exam
Oct. 30	Exam Returned Individual Progress Meetings Begin (Required: delimited topic, brief description, and several empirical references)
Nov. 6	Individual Progress Meetings
Nov. 13	Individual Progress Meetings
Nov. 20	No Class: Research Day
Nov. 27	Paper Presentations Begin (Required: Outline and Reference page) Optional: Early Review of Partial Papers
Dec. 4	Paper Presentations Partial Papers Returned
Dec. 11	Paper Presentations Final Paper Due

Course Schedule

Meeting	Activity
Aug. 31	Introduction and Overview Potential Topics Discussed
Sept. 7	Paper/Topic Discussion D & A: Chaps. 2, 4, 5, 6(P), 8(P), 9, 11(P)
Sept. 14	Topic Description Due (working title, several paragraphs and several references) D & A: Chaps. 13, 14, 15(P), 16, 17, 18(P), 19, 20, 21.
Sept. 21	Topic Description Returned D & A: Chaps. 23(P), 24/25(P), 26, 27(P), 28, 29(P). Wycoff: Comm. Policing Strategies
Sept. 28	Individual Progress Meetings Outline (title and references) Due (1-2 pps)
Oct. 5	Individual Progress Meetings Outline Due
Oct. 12	Individual Progress Meetings Outline Due
Oct. 19	Paper Discussion D & A: Chaps. 29(P), 30, 31, 32, 33(P), 34. B: Chaps. 1(P), 2(P).
Oct. 26	B: Chaps. 3(P), 4(P), 5(P), 6(P), 7(P) 8(P).
Nov. 2	B: Chaps. 9(P), 10(P), Conclusions Roberg: Implementing Comm. Policing Future of Comm. Policing Critique (due) /Discussion
Nov. 9	Presentations Begin; Outlines/References to Class Papers (or parts thereof) Due for Early Review
Nov. 16	Presentations; Outlines/References to Class Early Review Papers Returned
Nov. 23	No Class: Research Day
Nov. 30	Presentations; Outlines/References to Class
Dec. 7	Presentations; Outlines/References to Class Final Papers Due