

Police and Society AJ 102
Spring 2002

Course Code: 00200.
Time: 1200-1315 hrs. TTh.
Room 523.

Instructor: **P.C. Unsinger**
email: unsinger@email.sjsu.edu
ph. 408 924 1350; fax 408 924 2953

Office hours: Room MH 521
TTh 730-0900 & 1315-1415

-- caution in phoning or emailing the instructor: if you expect some answer, be aware he is usually in his office only during office hours. So, no phone or email message left will be received early morning TTh. When leaving a phone message follow proper phone protocols that ask you to give name and phone number first and in a slow and distinct manner.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the employment field known as law enforcement. It will provide details about agencies, their work, what they try to achieve and how they go about it. Attention will be given to recent innovations as well as problems encountered in the work. The place of law enforcement in the scheme of society will be examined in some detail concerning its responsiveness to needs and expected role, accountability and constraints on behaviors. Certain personnel practices used by agencies will be explored, including recruitment. The impact of the press and politicians will also be examined.

Textbook:

There is no textbook for this course. There are many out there that can be used if desired. If there is a need for a book, a simple search of internet book sellers, local book stores (used and new) and copies found in the bookstore for other classes should prove useful. The computer is also a very good resource. There are all kinds of websites for agencies, groups hoping to assist/hinder law enforcement in its work, and critics of the manner the work is carried. All provide useful information, selected according to their preconceived notions and opinions. They should be sought out when applicable.

An excellent source is always individuals who have worked or are working in the field. Their perspectives and opinions are useful. They should be consulted and their opinions and explanations of what is covered in class taken into account.

The library also has many books describing law enforcement in a broad picture as well as specific aspects. These should be consulted as well. There are many journals written by scholars who have useful opinions.

The wide range of materials from individuals to books to websites should be used in the course. Their views and facts become the enhancements discussed later and at the first class meeting.

Testing:

There will be three examinations (one of them the final examination). They are essay in nature and will require a bluebook. Blue books are obtainable from the bookstore and the instructor does not supply them.

Essays are written from questions developed from classroom material and discussion. A basic grasp of what is covered in class is essential. Often there is no answer to a question – only an opinion and argument(s) to back up one's position.

In order to be graded higher than average, one should conduct research on the class topics. These sources (library, internet, interviews, etc.) should be employed in the position taken. It is this employment that is called enhancements and they carry considerable weight in grading.

Grading:

Each examination is worth 100 points. Final grades are determined by adding the scores of the three examinations and then dividing by three. Grades are assigned according to the traditional standard: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; etc. The plus/minus are assigned to the two bordering the next higher grade and the two just over the line. Thus, 78-79 are C+ and 80-81 are B-.

Grading standards will be explained on the first day of class. At that time a sample grading criteria sheet will be distributed. It explains the assigning of points for each criteria. These should be borne in mind when writing your answer to the examination question.

You will notice one is enhancements and how they are employed. Lawyers cite cases. Scholars cite sources. Police cite their sources of information. The same practice should be employed in essay examinations. Also, bear in mind the terms used by lawyers – materiality and relevancy.

If you miss the first class meeting when the criteria are explained or have any question, see the instructor during the posted office hours before the first examination.

Attendance:

Desiring to “dumb down” the university students or increase the parking for faculty in the garage, the academic senate made it policy that attendance shall not be considered in grading. However, failure to attend and attend on a regular basis can only result in problems for the student. The instructor, for instance, will only describe grading policy once in class. Enhancements will only be described once as well. Failure to correctly gain the information means that one must rely on others and this is a notoriously poor way to obtain accurate information. So, attend. Little or no sympathy is shown to those who do not attend.

Note: any examination to be made up because of the failure to attend will be given at the time and place of the instructor's convenience. Also, a different and stringent standard of grading will be applied since the questions have been compromised.

Schedule:

January

- 24 First Class Day. Explanation of Course requirements explained. Safety rules given.
- 29 Role & Functions of Law Enforcement
- 31 Community Expectations

February

- 05 History of Law Enforcement – the English Heritage
- 07 Early American Heritage/Experience
- 12 Modern Law Enforcement – the evolving role
- 14 Agencies – the federal level
- 19 The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 21 Regulatory and other Agencies
- 26 video: The Secret Service
- 28 Foreign Police Structure and Duties – Singapore

March

- 05 Foreign Police Structure and Duties – Australian Federal Police
- 07 Foreign Police Structure and Duties – Philippine National Police
- 12 First Examination
- 14 The front line – Policing the Municipality
- 19 The front line – Policing the Unincorporated Areas
- 21 Uniform Division work
- 26 Spring Break (instructor in Taipei & Manila)
- 28 Spring Break (instructor in Taipei & Manila)

April

- 02 The Investigative Function
- 04 the Administrative and Support Divisions
- 09 Second Examination
- 11 Role Conflict. Video: Por La Vida
- 16 The Police Sub-culture
- 18 Being hired and learning the trade
- 23 video: The Waco Rules of Engagement (instructor in Singapore)
- 25 video: The Waco Rules of Engagement (instructor in Singapore)
- 30 Internal Affairs

May

- 02 The Press: Rodney King Incident
- 07 video: The Rodney King Trials
- 09 Politics and Policing – Conjuring problems and solutions
- 14 video: LAPD Blues
- 23 Final Examination @ 0945 hrs.