

**Police and Society
Course Syllabus**

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Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Tues. 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Or by appointment

Class Meeting Times: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00-11:45 a.m.
MacQuarrie Hall 520

This course examines the role of law enforcement in American society from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Topics include the history of law enforcement in the United States; theories of policing; the organization of police agencies; strengths and weaknesses of present-day American law enforcement, with special attention to community policing and police-community relations; the relationship of police to other parts of the criminal justice system; and challenges facing police forces today, including stress and danger, corruption, and misuse of force. Although primarily designed for AJ majors and minors, this course is also appropriate for non-majors who are interested in law, justice, crime, socio-legal studies, and American legal and political institutions.

1. Required Text:

Roy Roberg, John Crank, and Jack Kuykendall, *Police and Society*, 2d Edition (2000), available at the SJSU bookstore.

Occasional supplementary readings may be made available during the semester.

2. Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

A. Participation: You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it in class. Class participation helps your learning and your grade. At the end of the semester, up to 25 points will be awarded for class participation before grades are calculated. Points for class participation are given for your contribution to class discussions (questions, comments, criticisms, etc.), and *not* simply for attendance.

During class, please make sure your cell phones and pagers are silent.

B. Exams: Exams will cover both lectures and reading assignments. Some material discussed in class will not be in the readings; similarly, not everything discussed in the readings will be covered in class. Thus it is very important that you both keep up with the reading and attend class regularly. Students will be excused from class for legitimate medical reasons and for university-related engagements (e.g., athletics). Whenever possible, if you must miss class please inform the instructor ahead of time.

Exams are closed-book, closed-note. Exams include short-answer questions and one essay question. Review sheets will be given before each exam. The essay questions on the final exam will be cumulative.

C. Grades: Your grade will be based on 3 exams, 3 short (2 page) writing assignments, and class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams:	600 points
Midterm 1: 200 points	
Midterm 2: 200 points	
Final: 200 points	
Writing Assignments: 100 points each, total of 300 points	
Class Participation:	<u>25 points</u>
	925 points

Your scores for each test and assignment will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class).

You must take the final exam to pass the course. Students who do not take the final will receive an “F” or an “I” for the course, at the instructor’s discretion, regardless of their class average prior to the final. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will also receive an “F” grade for the course.

D. Papers: The writing assignments will be “reflection pieces” based on the readings and discussions, and designed to help you analyze the course material and/or apply it to “real life.” On occasion, you may be asked to find and analyze a newspaper or magazine article or review law enforcement websites. Other than that, no research will be required. However, you will be expected to integrate the readings and class discussions into your assignments. In other words, you cannot wait until the night before the exam to do the reading.

E. Late papers and missed exams:

Papers: Papers received at any time on the day they are due will count as “on time.” Late papers will be marked down **10 points** for each **day** they are late, including weekends. Papers more than ten days late will receive 0 points. You may use email for late papers *at your own risk*; emailed papers often get garbled in transmission or fail to arrive due to typographical errors in addressing. You will receive credit for emailed papers, like all other papers, only when they are received by the professor *in the correct format* (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, etc.). Papers may be emailed *only as attachments, in Word or WordPerfect*. Do not send papers as html documents, in compressed files, as email messages, or in other formats. When you need to turn in a paper late, you are strongly encouraged to use fax rather than email. If you turn in a late paper in person, be sure to have the person at the AJ Department desk date-stamp the day it was received, then put it in my mailbox. Papers slipped under my office door will count as received the day I get them, which may not be the day you submitted them - thus using my mailbox is a better option.

Exams: **only one** exam can be made up, and only if you have a good reason for missing the exam (e.g., serious illness with physician’s note). Make-up exams are longer and involve more writing than the regular exams. The make-up exam day is the last day of class, and it is your responsibility to notify the professor that you intend to take a make-up exam.

There will be **no exceptions** made to the late paper and missed exam policies.

F. Extra Credit: Extra credit assignments may be handed out during the semester. However, extra credit will *not* be sufficient to make up for (replace) a missed writing assignment; if you slack off during the semester, you cannot rescue your grade with extra credit. In other words, it is essential to keep up with readings, lectures and assignments, and not to miss exams (as makeup exams are more difficult).

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. Perspectives on Police

Week 1. Thursday January 23: Introduction to course. No reading assignment.

Week 2. Tuesday January 28-Thursday January 30: A brief history of policing; the role of police in the United States
Read for class: Text, Chapters 1-2

II. Police Organizations

Week 3. Tuesday February 4-Thursday February 6: Police Administration, Community Policing
Read for class: Text, Chapters 4-5
Writing Assignment 1 handed out: Police, Democracy and Individual Rights

Week 4. Tuesday February 11-Thursday February 13: Organizational Change, Community Policing
Read for class: Text, Chapter 3

Week 5. Tuesday February 18-Thursday February 20: Diversifying the Police: Women Officers, Officers of Color
Read for class: Text, Chapter 12

Week 6. Tuesday February 25-Thursday February 27: Review and **Exam**
No reading assignment.

EXAM I: Thursday February 27. Closed Book. Covers Discussions & Readings for Weeks 1-6. Bring a bluebook and a pen.

III. Police Operations

Week 7. Tuesday March 4-Thursday March 6: Recruitment Criteria; Duties & Expectations of Police
Read for class: Text, Chapters 6-7

Week 8. Tuesday March 11-Thursday March 13: The Problems of Force and Coercion
Read for class: Text, Chapter 9
Video: Deadly Force
Writing Assignment 2 handed out: Deadly Force

Week 9. Tuesday March 18-Thursday March 20: Force and Coercion, continued
No new reading assignment

Spring Break: March 24-March 28: No reading assignment

Week 10. Tuesday April 1-Thursday April 3: Force and Coercion, conclusion; **exam review**
No new reading assignment

Week 11. Tuesday April 8-Thursday April 10: **Exam**; begin Police Behavior

EXAM 2: Tuesday April 8. Closed Book. Covers readings & discussions for weeks 7-11. Bring a bluebook and a pen.

Thursday April 10: Varieties of Police Behavior; Police Corruption
Read for class: Begin Text, Chapter 8

Week 12. Tuesday April 15-Thursday April 17: Police Behavior and Corruption continued
Read for class: finish reading Text, Chapter 8
Writing Assignment 3 handed out: Police Corruption

Week 13. Tuesday April 22-Thursday April 24: Stress and Danger
Read for class: Text, Chapter 13

Week 14. Tuesday April 29-Thursday May 1: Mechanisms for Controlling Inappropriate Police Behavior
Read for class: Text, Chapter 10

Week 15. Tuesday May 6-Thursday May 8: conclusion and review.

Week 16. Tuesday May 13: last day of class. **EXAM MAKE-UPS.** No lecture.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, May 21, 2003, 9:45 a.m.-noon
Bring pen, bluebooks.

Note: If you want to know your final grade before grades are sent out, please bring a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope to the final and I will mail your course grade when I finish grading the finals. To protect student privacy, grades cannot be given out by telephone or email.