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Spring, 2003
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

The course objectives are to critically analyze contemporary policies and practices regarding the police in a democratic society.

Textbooks and Articles

Roberg, R., Crank, J., and Kuykendall, J. (2000). *Police & Society*, 2e. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

Moore, M. (2002). *Recognizing Value in Policing.* Washington, DC: PERF.

Brodeur, J.-P., ed. (1998). *How to Recognize Good Policing.* Washington, DC: PERF and Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage.

Course Requirements

1. Read the assigned materials and come to class prepared to discuss and critique the materials.

2. An in-class books/themes critique.

3. Prepare a research paper evaluating a contemporary police topic, with an emphasis on policy implications; present the paper in class.

Student Evaluation

Research Paper/Presentation:	40%
Class Participation:	30%
In-class Critique	30%

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. It is **strongly suggested** that you write down several *Most Important Topic* (MITs) descriptions for each chapter (a sentence or two). Although these will not be collected, they may be noted and should allow you to actively (and intelligently?) participate at least several times per class—the **minimum** level expected.

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

Early Review

It is **strongly encouraged** that you turn in a partial paper (limited to 4 pages) for **early review** (see schedule). **Contents will include** one empirical study review and references only. The paper will be critiqued and handed back for final completion.

Paper Format

The paper **must 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
    - Control (e.g., age, race, gender) and/or intervening (e.g., motivation, officer style)
- Results or Findings (stat. sig. relationship between/among study variables)
- Limitations

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 (i.e., 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.

If the paper format requirements are not precisely followed, grade points will be deducted.