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Fall, 2004
Office Hours:

JS 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.

Skogan, W. G., ed. (2004). *Community Policing: Can It Work?* Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth.

Course Requirements

1. Read the assigned materials and come to class prepared to discuss and critique the materials.
2. Prepare a most important topics (MIT) description for each assigned chapter.
3. Prepare and present 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%
Paper Presentation:	10%
Class Participation:	30%
Chapter MITs:	20%

Class Participation

The class will be conducted in a seminar style; therefore, it is *required* 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. While MITs will be required for each chapter to help in participation, you need to be able to discuss chapter contents beyond what you have covered in the MITs.

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

Most Important Topics

MITs will be prepared for *each* chapter assigned per class session. You will bring to class a description of what you feel to be the *two* (minimum) or *three* (maximum) most important topics in each chapter and why. For instance, you may believe that a particular topic is crucial, insightful, or perhaps, even "off-target." In other words, you need to defend why you feel these are the most important topics in the chapter.

Each MIT will be approximately one paragraph in length, typed, and double spaced. Each class session MIT will be stapled together to be handed in at the end of the class. MITs will be collected randomly; that is, they will not all be collected. It is important to note that you must be *in attendance* to hand them in.

Research Paper

A research paper on a contemporary police related topic (one on which you have not previously written) 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 conclusions and policy implications based on these empirical relationships.

Requirements

Length: The paper must be a *minimum* of 16 pages and a *maximum* of 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 *no less than 4,000 words*.

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

Sources: Minimum expectations include ten (10) total sources; at least one-half of which must be empirical or theoretical in nature and published within the last seven years. This means that a *minimum* of five (5) of the sources must be from research journals. Please note that Internet references cannot be used as empirical references, and are, in general, discouraged. It is possible that some outside the law enforcement field may be necessary to adequately cover the topic (e.g., psychology, sociology, public administration).

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

Writing Style: The paper must be written in formal English, using proper punctuation, spelling, tenses, and so on. Please proofread carefully prior to turning in.

Organization: The paper must be organized according to the Paper Format set out below.

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

Common Errors include: 1. APA format not followed; 2. cites in paper do not match those in the Reference Section; 3. inadequate description of empirical studies; 4. weak policy implications; and 5. policy implications that do not match the research findings reviewed.

Paper Summary Presentation

A formal presentation of approximately 25 minutes is required and will count as 10% of the final grade. The presentation will be from note cards and your prepared outline from the podium; *you may not have your paper at the podium*. A brief outline (1-2 pages) and reference page of sources used will be distributed to the class prior to the presentation. The purpose of the summary presentation is to inform your classmates of the research (especially, methodology, findings, and limitations) and policy implications.

A Q & A period will follow the presentation; queries regarding the research and policy implications will be asked by the class and instructor (note: these queries count toward one's participation grade).

Due Dates

Final papers are due on the last class meeting (see schedule). Papers can only be late if excusable (i.e., documented), and accepted by the instructor. One grade point per week late will be deducted (one day equals one work week, etc.).

Paper Format

The paper *must* be organized according to the following format:

Part I: Introduction

Introduction to the topic, 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 (statistical significant 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: Policy Implications

From the research results presented, the need for 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

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Aug. 31	Introduction and Class Requirements Paper/Topics Discussion
Sep. 07	RCK: Chaps. 1, 3 & 5 M: Introduction; Chaps. 1, 2
Sep. 14	RCK: Chaps. 6, 7 & 8 M: Chaps. 3, 4
Sep. 21	RCK: Chaps. 9, 10 & 11 M: Chaps. 5, 6 Determine Individual Topic Meetings
Sep. 28	Individual Topic Meetings Begin (Required: Working title and two empirical references)
Oct. 05	Individual Topic Meetings
Oct. 12	Individual Topic Meetings
Oct. 19	RCK: Chaps. 12, 13 & 15 M: Chaps. 7, 8, 9 & Conclusions
Oct. 26	S: Chaps. Introduction; Chaps. 1-4 Determine Presentation Order Paper Discussion
Nov. 02	S: Chaps. 5-9.
Nov. 09	Drop-in Paper Consults
Nov. 16	Paper Presentations Begin (Required: Outline and Reference page)
Nov. 23	No Class
Nov. 30	Paper Presentations
Dec. 07	Paper Presentations Final Paper Due