

POLICE and SOCIETY

Course Syllabus

Professor: Ann Lucas, J.D., Ph.D.

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Note: e-mail is the best way to reach me outside of class

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Wed., 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Department website: www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies (this syllabus will be posted there)

Class Meeting Times and Location: Mon.-Wed. 10:30-11:45 a.m., MacQuarrie Hall 520

Course Description: 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.

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing (junior or senior).

1. Required Text: Roy Roberg, Kenneth Novak, and Gary Cordner, *Police and Society*, 3d Edition (2005), available at the SJSU bookstore, Roberts bookstore, or online. During the semester, you will also need three of the narrow scantron forms (#882-E), available in the same locations.

2. Student Learning Objectives: Successful completion of this course will enable students to appreciate and describe the evolution of policing in the United States; the ways in which democratic governance shapes and constrains the actions of police and the relations between police and citizens; the genesis, goals, objectives and limitations of community policing; the processes of police recruitment and selection; the opportunities for and experiences of “non-traditional” officers; the major tasks and strategies of patrolling, including their limitations; factors contributing to police misconduct and corruption, and strategies for prevention; common situations involving the use and misuse of force by police, including deadly force, and the guidelines for the proper use of force; and the common sources of stress, danger, and fatalities in police work, including ways to minimize these problems.

3. Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

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

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 15 points will be awarded to students who have participated in class. Points for class participation are given for your contribution to class discussions (questions, comments, criticisms, etc.), and *not* simply for attendance. Participation points are separate from points given for in-class exercises.

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).

Exams are closed-book, closed-note. Exams include multiple choice and short-answer questions. Review sheets will be given before each exam. The final exam is not cumulative. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen to each exam. At the end of the semester, if you have taken both midterms and are unhappy with your score on one of them, you will be allowed to retake that exam on the make-up day (see below).

Exams will be handed out only for the first 10 minutes of the class period in which the exam is being given. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam. This policy also applies to the final.

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.

C. Quizzes: Each quiz will be given on the day indicated in the syllabus. Quizzes will consist of one question on the material being covered that week, which you will answer in no more than one page. You will have twenty-five (25) minutes at the *end* of the class period to answer the quiz question. You do not need bluebooks for quizzes, and there will be no review sheets.

D. In-Class Exercises (discussion): Students will be divided into discussion groups early in the semester. Each student will be partnered with another student in her/his group to lead a group discussion once during the semester. You will sign up in advance for your discussion leader day. On the day you lead a discussion, you and your partner are responsible for leading the discussion on that week’s topic, and summarizing your group’s comments in writing. Group leaders earn 10 points for leading the discussion, and other group members earn 5 points for attending each discussion. Missed discussion days/points cannot be made up.

E. Grades: Your grade will be based on 3 exams (2 midterms, 1 final), 3 quizzes, and participation in class exercises. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 100 points each, total of	300 points
Quizzes: 30 points each, total of	90 points
In-Class Exercises:	35 points
Class Participation:	<u>15 points</u>
Total Points Possible:	440 points

Your scores for each of these 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). Specifically, the person with the most points (excluding extra credit) will set the standard for the highest "A" grade. From there, grades will be calculated as follows:

Grades as % of highest total score:	93-100% A	83-86% B	70-74% C	0-54% F
	90-92% A-	80-82% B-	65-69% C-	
	87-89% B+	75-79% C+	55-64% D	

F. Missed exams, quizzes and discussion:

Exams and quizzes: only one exam or quiz 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 and quizzes are longer and involve more writing than the regular exams and quizzes. The make-up exam/quiz 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.

Discussion: missed discussion days and points cannot be made up.

There will be no exceptions made to these policies.

G. Extra Credit: Three to five extra credit assignments, worth up to five points each, will be handed out in class during the semester. They will not be announced ahead of time. If you miss class frequently, you will miss most of the extra credit. No other extra credit will be available.

H. Instructor assistance: If you find you are having problems understanding the material or performing well on exams and assignments, please see me during my office hours. If my office hours are inconvenient for you, please see me after class and we can make an appointment to meet or agree to discuss your concerns by phone or email. You are also welcome to see me in office hours if you simply want to discuss the material, need JS major advising, or seek pre-law or pre-graduate advising. As noted above, the best way to reach me outside of class is by email; on weekdays you should receive a response within 24 hours. Because I am not on campus every day, there is often a longer delay in responding to phone messages.

4. Other information.

A. Students with disabilities: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible. University policy (Presidential Directive 97-03) requires that students with disabilities must register with SJSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish a record of their disability. The DRC will work with you to determine the disability, document it, and determine the services and accommodations necessary for your success. The DRC may also contact me to determine the types of consideration necessary. Students must register with the Center during the first three weeks of the semester. The DRC Web site: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

B. Cheating and plagiarism: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will both *fail the entire course and be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer*. If you are considering a career in the criminal justice field, be aware that reports of cheating will go on your

academic record and thus will be discovered by employers' background investigations of job candidates.

For more information on what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, take the SJSU Library tutorial at <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

See the university's policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.sjsu.edu/leap/plagiar.htm>

C. Classroom Behavior: In addition to regular attendance, students are expected to behave appropriately in the classroom, to maintain an environment conducive to learning. This includes arriving on time, keeping cell phones off or silent, avoiding disruptive behavior such as chatting during lectures, and avoiding cheating and plagiarism. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express their own opinions during class, but are expected to show respect for one another even when they disagree.

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. Perspectives on Police

- Week 1. Wednesday August 24: Introduction to course.
No reading assignment
- Week 2. Monday August 29-Wednesday August 31: A brief history of policing; the role of police in a democracy
Read for class: Text, Chapters 1-2 (we will discuss chapter 2 first)
- Week 3. Wednesday September 7: Police in a democracy, continued
(Labor Day Holiday is Monday September 5)
Read for class: (finish) Text, Chapter 1
Discussion Wednesday

II. Police Organizations

- Week 4. Monday September 12-Wednesday September 14: Community policing
Read for class: Text, Chapter 3
Quiz #1 Wednesday: Community Policing
- Week 5. Monday September 19-Wednesday September 21: Recruitment, selection and development of new officers
Read for class: Text, Chapter 6
Discussion Wednesday
- Week 6. Monday September 26-Wednesday September 28: **Review and Exam**
No reading assignment.

EXAM I: Wednesday September 28. Closed Book. Covers Discussions & Readings for Weeks 1-5. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen.

- Week 7. Monday October 3 - Wednesday October 5: Diversifying police forces
Read for class: Text, Chapter 12
Discussion Wednesday

III. Police Operations and Behavior

- Week 8. Monday October 10-Wednesday October 12: Patrol and investigation
Read for class: Text, Chapter 7
- Week 9. Monday October 17-Wednesday October 19: Patrol, conclusion; Police misconduct
Read for class: Text, Chapter 8
Quiz #2 Wednesday
- Week 10. Monday October 24 -Wednesday October 26: Police misconduct, conclusion

No new reading assignment
Discussion Wednesday

Week 11. Monday October 31-Wednesday November 2: **Review and Exam**
No new reading assignment

EXAM 2: Wednesday November 2. Closed Book. Covers readings & discussions for weeks 7-10. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen.

Week 12. Monday November 7 - Wednesday November 9: Force and coercion
Read for class: Text, Chapter 9
Discussion Wednesday

Week 13. Monday November 14 - Wednesday November 16: Force & coercion, conclusion
No new reading assignment
Video: Deadly force - Monday; Quiz #3 Wednesday

Week 14. Monday November 21 - Wednesday November 23: Stress and safety
Read for class: Text, Chapter 13
NO CLASS Wednesday, Nov. 23 – happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15. Monday November 28 - Wednesday November 30: Stress and safety, conclusion
No new reading assignment
Discussion Wednesday

Week 16: Monday December 5-Wednesday December 7: Course conclusion & exam review; **makeups**
No new reading assignment
Monday December 5: Conclusion and Review for Final Exam
Wednesday December 7: EXAM/QUIZ MAKE-UPS. No lecture.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday December 13, 9:45-Noon (in our regular classroom)
Bring scantron form, pencil, pen.

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.