

POLICE and SOCIETY
Course Syllabus

Professor: Ann Lucas, J.D., Ph.D.
MacQuarrie Hall 513
(408) 924-2914 office/messages
(408) 924-2953 fax
E-mail: alucas@casa.sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. 9:15-10:30 a.m.
Mon., 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 523

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.

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.

2. Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

During class, please 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.

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.

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: 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. (For example, if your group has 6 people, 2 people will lead a discussion on one day, 2 different people will lead on another day, and the last 2 people will lead on a third day.) 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 coming to class with questions for the group to discuss, based on the assigned course material for that week. At the end of that class, you and your partner will turn in a typed sheet with the questions your group discussed, along with a list of who participated and a handwritten summary of the key points made in your discussion (sample format is on the last page of this syllabus). Group leaders earn 30 points for leading the discussion, and other group members earn 10 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	400 points
Quizzes: 30 points each, total of	90 points
In-Class Exercises:	50 points
Class Participation:	<u>15 points</u>
Total Points Possible:	555 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).

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.

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 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.

3. Other information.

A. Students with disabilities: Students who need accommodation due to a disability must register with SJSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC). The Center will work with the student to determine the disability, document it, and determine the services and accommodations necessary for student success. The DRC will contact the instructor 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: 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>

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. Perspectives on Police

- Week 1. Wednesday January 26: Introduction to course.
No reading assignment
- Week 2. Monday January 31-Wednesday February 2: 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. Monday February 7-Wednesday February 9: Police in a democracy, continued
Read for class: (finish) Text, Chapter 1
Discussion Day #1 Wednesday: Police and Democratic Societies

II. Police Organizations

- Week 4. Monday February 14-Wednesday February 16: Community policing
Read for class: Text, Chapter 3
Quiz #1 Wednesday: Community Policing
- Week 5. Monday February 21-Wednesday February 23: Recruitment, selection and development of new officers
Read for class: Text, Chapter 6
- Week 6. Monday February 28-Wednesday March 2: Review and **Exam**
No reading assignment.

EXAM I: Wednesday March 2. Closed Book. Covers Discussions & Readings for Weeks 1-5. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen.

- Week 7. Monday March 7- Wednesday March 9: Diversifying police forces
Read for class: Text, Chapter 12

III. Police Operations and Behavior

- Week 8. Monday March 14-Wednesday March 16: Patrol and investigations
Read for class: Text, Chapter 7
Discussion Day #2 Wednesday: Patrol
- Week 9. Monday March 21-Wednesday March 23: Police misconduct
Read for class: Text, Chapter 8
Quiz #2 Wednesday

SPRING BREAK: March 28-April 1. No classes, no reading assignment.

Week 10. Monday April 4-Wednesday April 6: Police misconduct, conclusion; **exam review**
No new reading assignment

Week 11. Monday April 11-Wednesday April 13: **Exam**; begin Force and coercion

EXAM 2: Monday April 11. Closed Book. Covers readings & discussions for weeks 7-10. Bring a scantron form, pencil and pen.

Wednesday April 13: Force and coercion
Read for class: Begin Text, Chapter 9

Week 12. Monday April 18-Wednesday April 20: Force and coercion, conclusion
Read for class: finish reading Text, Chapter 9
Video: Deadly Force

Week 13. Monday April 25-Wednesday April 27: Legal issues relating to police operations
Read for class: Text, Chapter 11
Quiz #3 Monday

Week 14. Monday May 2-Wednesday May 4: Stress and safety
Read for class: Text, Chapter 13
Discussion #3 Wednesday: Stress and safety

Week 15. Monday May 9-Wednesday May 11: Contemporary issues facing police; course conclusion and final exam review
Read for class: Text, Chapter 15

Week 16: Monday May 16: **EXAM/QUIZ MAKE-UPS.** No lecture.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday May 19, 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.

JS 102 Class Discussions - sample format

Date: _____

Topic: _____

Discussion leaders: _____

Group members in attendance: _____

Discussion questions: (Come up with 3-5 questions for your group to discuss. You may only cover two or three, but you may need an extra one or two in case one of the first three is a “dud”)

1. [type your first question and leave space to write in a brief summary of the discussion during class]

2. [type question 2 and leave space to write in a summary of the discussion during class]

3. [type question 3 and leave space to write in a summary of the discussion during class]

4. [type question 4 and leave space to write in a summary of the discussion during class]

5. [type question 5 and leave space to write in a summary of the discussion during class]