

**Fall 2007**  
**Police and Society JS-102**  
*Monday/Wednesday 15.00-16.15 (MH 520)*

**Instructor**

Alessandro De Giorgi

**Email address**

[degiorgi@hotmail.com](mailto:degiorgi@hotmail.com)

**Office Hours**

Mon/Wed 16.30-17.30

**Course Description**

This course provides a critical analysis of the role of the police in Western societies, in a historical and contemporary perspective. In particular, we will reconstruct the birth of the modern police and its transformations during the XX and early XXI centuries, with particular reference to American society. In this context, several styles of policing will be scrutinized and particular attention will be devoted to the most recent and debated developments in police work, such as “quality of life policing” and “community policing”.

**Course Objectives**

After completing this course, students should be aware of the various cultural and political dimensions of policing, as well as of the main approaches to past and present transformations of police activity in American society. Most importantly, however, students will be expected to show a sociologically informed knowledge about the most problematic aspects of police work in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies. Finally, participants should be able to develop a critical understanding of the role of the police in contemporary urban settings, with particular reference to such crucial issues as police brutality and racial profiling.

**Graded Coursework**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Date Due</i>	<i>Percent of Total Grade</i>
Test ONE (5 Short Answer Questions)	10/17 (in class)	30%
Test TWO (5 Short Answer Questions)	12/10 (in class)	30%
Final PAPER (5-10 pages Written Essay)	12/10 (take home)	40%

**Important Note on Coursework**

TESTS: These will be done in class, and will consist of 5 short-answer questions. If you miss one test, there is the possibility of a makeup test reserved for the students who justify their absence with a doctor's certificate.

PAPER: This will be done at home, and will consist of a written essay on a topic freely chosen by each student, but consistent with the course program. The essay should be 5-10 pages long, double-spaced and typed in Word, Times New Roman (12pts). In order for the paper to be accepted, students are requested to discuss their projects and drafts at least twice with the instructor, during office hours. The first discussion should take place before Week 10 (31<sup>st</sup> October 2007). No papers will be accepted without previous discussions!

Please consider that having office hours is a student's right: take advantage of it and feel free to come and see the instructor as you need.

### **Grading Method for Assignments, Term Papers, and Coursework**

A [90 – 100]

Excellent, demonstrates original thought, superior command of written and classroom material, clarity and erudition in a structured presentation.

B [80 – 89]

Above average, some originality of thought, solid command of written and classroom materials, developed structure.

C [70 – 79]

Below average, little or no originality of thought, faltering command of written and classroom materials, awkward structure.

D [60 – 69]

Well below average. No creative response. cursory attention to detail. No appreciation for scholarship.

F [59 or below]

Does not meet minimum expectations for this course.

### **Required Reading**

- Victor E. Kappeler, *The Police and Society. Touchstone Readings*, Waveland Press, Long Grove 2006.
- JS-102 Reader (available in printed form)

### **Recommended Readings**

Andrea McArdle and Tanya Erzen, *Zero Tolerance*, New York University Press, New York 2001.

Stuart Hall, et al., *Policing the Crisis*, Palgrave, London 1978.

Jill Nelson, *Police Brutality. An Anthology*, Norton, New York 2000.

### **Recommended Viewings**

Jim Kouf, *Gang Related* (1997).

Spike Lee, *Clockers* (1995).

Phil Joanou, *State of Grace* (1990)

## Class Topics and Assignments

### Week 1 – Introduction

- Mon 08/27* General Introduction/Course Requirements/Syllabus/Exams  
[No readings]
- Wed 08/29* Our Topic: Police, Society and Conflict  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 5]

### Week 2 – Police, Violence and Society

- Mon 09/03* No lecture
- Wed 09/05* Police and the Monopoly of Force in Contemporary Societies  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 7]

### Week 3 – Police Visions

- Mon 09/10* Movie: *Dark Blue*, 2002. (Intro/Part I)  
[Reading: Introduction to the movie]
- Wed 09/12* Movie: *Dark Blue*, 2002. (Part II/Discussion)  
[Reading & Thinking: Questions about the movie]

### Week 4 – Alternative Histories of Policing

- Mon 09/17* Mainstream Histories of Policing in the US  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 1]
- Wed 09/19* Policing in the US: Histories from Below  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 2]  
[Suggested Reading: Moss, *Persecution of Negroes*, JS-102 Reader]

### Week 5 – Policing the Urban Ghetto: Past and Present

- Mon 09/24* Policing the Post-Industrial City  
[Reading: Kelley, *Slangin' Rocks*, JS-102 Reader]
- Wed 09/26* The Police and the “Underclass”  
[Reading: Chambliss, *Policing the Ghetto Underclass*, JS-102 Reader]

### Week 6 – Police Visions

- Mon 10/01* Movie: *Colors*, 1988. (Intro/Part I)  
[Reading: Introduction to the movie]
- Wed 10/03* Movie: *Colors*, 1988. (Part II/Discussion)  
[Reading & Thinking: Questions about the movie]

### Week 7 – Views on Police (sub)Cultures

- Mon 10/08* The Police as a Subculture  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 13]
- Wed 10/10* Further on the Police as a Subculture  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 15]

### **Week 8 – Question Time/Recapitulation/Test**

- Mon 10/15* Question Time and Recap  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapters 1,2,13,15]
- Wed 10/17* Test One: Five Short-Answer Questions [30% of total grade]

### **Week 9 – Police Visions**

- Mon 10/22* Movie: *Training Day*, 2001. (Intro/Part I)  
[Reading: Introduction to the movie]
- Wed 10/24* Movie: *Training Day*, 2001. (Part II/Discussion)  
[Reading & Thinking: Questions about the movie]

### **Week 10 – Police Crisis: *Back to the Future?***

- Mon 10/29* The (False) Promise of “Order Maintenance” Policing  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 8]
- Wed 10/31* Mythical Pasts in Contemporary Police Debates  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 3]

### **Week 11 – Fixing “Broken Windows”?**

- Mon 11/05* The “Broken Windows” Hypothesis  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 10]
- Wed 11/07* Voices Against the “Broken Windows” Hypothesis  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 11]

### **Week 12 – Myths and Realities About New York-Style Policing**

- Mon 11/12* No Lecture
- Wed 11/14* The Myth of *Zero Tolerance*  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 28]

### **Week 13 – Police Visions**

- Mon 11/19* Movie: *Minority Report*, 2002. (Intro/Part I)  
[Reading: Introduction to the movie]
- Wed 11/21* Movie: *Minority Report*, 2002. (Part II/Discussion)  
[Reading & Thinking: Questions about the movie]

### **Week 14 – The Case Against Paramilitary Policing**

- Mon 11/26* The Militarization of the Police: US and Beyond  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 27]
- Wed 11/28* Scenes from a Massacre: Genoa 2001

### **Week 15 – From the War on Crime to the War on Terrorism: *Global Zero Tolerance?***

- Mon 12/03* Enduring Control: from the War on Crime to the War on Terror  
[Reading: TBA]
- Wed 12/05* Policing The New (Global) Dangerous Classes  
[Reading: Kappeler, *The Police and Society*, Chapter 30]

### **Week 16 – Final Test and Hand in Paper**

- Mon 12/10* Test Two: Five Short-Answer Questions [30% of total grade]  
Hand in Final Paper [40% of total grade]

## **Student Conduct**

*Attendance:* According to University policy F69-24 “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading”. Attendance is taken at each class meeting using sign-in sheets.

*Etiquette:* While in class please turn your cell phone off. If your laptop has wireless access you may use it to access information relevant to the discussion, but please do not read emails, newspapers or other non-class related material during class. Students are encouraged to speak up with questions and comments, and to respond to points raised by other students. However, the maintenance of an effective discussion space in class requires all of us to act with respect for everyone else in the room.

## **University Policies**

### *Course Add/Drop Statement*

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, instructors are not required to drop a student from their course. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure classes are dropped. You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct)

### *Academic Integrity Statement*

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to perform their own work without the use of any outside resources. Academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor. We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: [http://sa.sjsu.edu/student\\_conduct](http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct). To better understand plagiarism and to aid you in making sure that you are not plagiarizing, please see the instructor and visit: <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

### *American with Disabilities Act*

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 make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

### *Student Rights and Responsibilities*

The full statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities may be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm>