

**Spring 2008**  
**Police and Society JS-102**  
*Monday/Wednesday 15.00-16.15 (MH 520)*

**Instructor**

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**Office Hours**

Mon/Wed 16.15-17.15 (MH 529)

**Course Description**

This course provides a critical analysis of the role of the police in the US and other Western societies, both in a historical and contemporary perspective. More specifically, we will reconstruct the birth of the modern police in the XIX century as well as 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 within police strategies, such as “quality of life”, “order maintenance”, “zero tolerance”, and “paramilitary” 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 societies divided along lines of class, race, ethnicity, and gender. Finally, participants should be able to develop a critical understanding of the controversies surrounding police action in contemporary urban settings, with particular reference to such crucial issues as police brutality, and racial profiling in US inner cities.

**Graded Coursework**

| <i>Assignment</i>                      | <i>Date Due</i>  | <i>Percent of Total Grade</i> |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Test ONE (5 Short-Answer Questions)    | 02/27 (in class) | 30% (max 30 pts)              |
| Test TWO (5 Short-Answer Questions)    | 04/23 (in class) | 30% (max 30 pts)              |
| Final PAPER (5-15 pages written essay) | 05/12 (at home)  | 40% (max 40 pts)              |

### **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 chosen by each student from a list which will be made available by the instructor. 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 project and/or draft at least once with the instructor, during office hours. The discussion should take place before 03/19/2008. No papers will be accepted without previous discussion!

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 [85 – 100]

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

B [69 – 84]

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

C [53 – 68]

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

D [37 – 52]

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

F [36 or below]

Does not meet minimum expectations for this course.

### **Required Readings**

- 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. Quality of Life and the New Police Brutality in New York City*, New York University Press, New York 2001.
- Bernard Harcourt, *Illusions of Order. The False Promise of Broken Windows Policing*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 2001.
- Jill Nelson, *Police Brutality. An Anthology*, Norton, New York 2000.

### **Recommended Viewings**

- Steven Spielberg, *Minority Report* (2002).
- Spike Lee, *Clockers* (1995).
- Stephen Frears, *Dirty Pretty Things* (2002).

## Class Topics and Assignments

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Week 1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>   |
| Mon 01/21     | No Lecture  |
| Wed 01/23     | General Introduction/Course Requirements/Syllabus/Exams<br>[No readings]  |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>Police, Violence, and Modern Society</b>   |
| Mon 01/28     | Our Topic: Police, Violence and Social Conflict<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 5]                               |
| Wed 01/30     | Police and the Monopoly of Force in Modern Society<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 7]                            |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>Movie 1</b>  |
| Mon 02/04     | Movie: <i>Crash</i> , 2004 (Intro/Part I)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-102 Reader]   |
| Wed 02/06     | Movie: <i>Crash</i> , 2004 (Part II/Discussion)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-102 Reader]   |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>Mainstream vs. Alternative Histories of Policing</b>   |
| Mon 02/11     | Mainstream Histories of Policing in the US<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 1]                                    |
| Wed 02/13     | Policing in the US: Histories from Below<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 2]                                      |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>Policing the Urban Poor: Past and Present</b>  |
| Mon 02/18     | Policing the Post-Industrial City<br>[Reading: Kelley, <i>Slangin' Rocks</i> , JS-102 Reader]   |
| Wed 02/20     | The Police and the American "Underclass"<br>[Reading: Chambliss, <i>Policing the Ghetto Underclass</i> , JS-102 Reader]                         |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <b>Question Time/Recap/Test</b>   |
| Mon 02/25     | Question Time and Recap<br>[Readings: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapters 1,2,5,7]<br>[Relevant readings from the JS-102 Reader] |
| Wed 02/27     | <u>Test One: Five Short-Answer Questions</u> [30% of total grade]   |
| <b>Week 7</b> | <b>(Sub-)Cultures of Policing</b>   |
| Mon 03/03     | The Police as a Subculture<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 13]   |
| Wed 03/05     | Further on the Police as a Subculture<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 15]  |
| <b>Week 8</b> | <b>Movie 2</b>  |
| Mon 03/10     | Movie: <i>Colors</i> , 1988 (Intro/Part I)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-102 Reader]  |
| Wed 03/12     | Movie: <i>Colors</i> , 1988 (Part II/Discussion)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, JS-102 Reader]  |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Week 9</b>    | <b>Fixing “Broken Windows”?</b>   |
| <i>Mon 03/17</i> | The “Broken Windows” Hypothesis<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 10]                      |
| <i>Wed 03/19</i> | Voices Against the “Broken Windows” Hypothesis<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 11]       |
| <b>Week 10</b>   | <b>Police Crisis: <i>Back to the Future?</i></b>  |
| <i>Mon 03/31</i> | <i>No Lecture</i>   |
| <i>Wed 04/02</i> | The (False) Promise of “Order Maintenance” Policing<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 8]   |
| <b>Week 11</b>   | <b>Movie 3</b>  |
| <i>Mon 04/07</i> | Movie: <i>The Farm – Angola</i> , 1998 (Intro/Part I)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, <i>JS-102 Reader</i> ]         |
| <i>Wed 04/09</i> | Movie: <i>The Farm – Angola</i> , 1998 (Part II/Discussion)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, <i>JS-102 Reader</i> ]   |
| <b>Week 12</b>   | <b>Myths and Realities About “Quality of Life” Policing</b>   |
| <i>Mon 04/14</i> | Mythical Pasts in Contemporary Police Debates<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 3]         |
| <i>Wed 04/16</i> | The Myth of <i>Zero Tolerance</i><br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 28]                    |
| <b>Week 13</b>   | <b>Question Time/Recap/Test</b>   |
| <i>Mon 04/21</i> | Question Time and Recap<br>[Readings: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapters 3,8,10,11,13,15,28]            |
| <i>Wed 04/23</i> | <u>Test Two: Five Short-Answer Questions</u> [30% of total grade]   |
| <b>Week 14</b>   | <b>The Case Against Paramilitary Policing</b>   |
| <i>Mon 04/28</i> | The Militarization of the Police: US and Beyond<br>[Reading: Kappeler, <i>The Police and Society</i> , Chapter 27]      |
| <i>Wed 04/30</i> | Scenes from a Massacre: Genoa 2001 (Video)  |
| <b>Week 15</b>   | <b>Movie 4</b>  |
| <i>Mon 05/05</i> | Movie: <i>Maria Full of Grace</i> , 2004 (Intro/Part I)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, <i>JS-102 Reader</i> ]       |
| <i>Wed 05/07</i> | Movie: <i>Maria Full of Grace</i> , 2004 (Part II/Discussion)<br>[Reading: Reviews of the movie, <i>JS-102 Reader</i> ] |
| <b>Week 16</b>   | <b>Final Paper Deadline</b>   |
| <i>Mon 05/12</i> | <u>Hand in Final Paper</u> [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>