

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
JS 102–80: Police and Society
Spring 2022

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Jackson Sargent, MA, MPA
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Location: Virtual
Email: jackson.sargent@sjsu.edu
Class Day & Time: N/A
Classroom: Online

COURSE FORMAT

Online: The Canvas Learning Management System will be used as the means for distributing course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, and communications about changes to the course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of updates.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A multidisciplinary study of law enforcement from the early 1800s to the present. Focus on significant studies in relation to the role of police and analysis of current models and practices.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the role and function of policing in modern American society. Course concepts include police operations, methods, issues, and challenges associated with crime control and reduction. The course will also examine the changing role and perception of police; the expectations placed on police by the larger society; police/community relationships; and police ethics, culture, and behavior.

COURSE GOALS

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand and explain the basic procedures and functions of policing in America.
- ✓ Describe the challenges facing the practice of professional policing.
- ✓ Understand police culture and behavior, and the requirements of police work.
- ✓ Explain the importance of, and issues associated with, the use of discretion and force in law enforcement.
- ✓ Critically evaluate scholarly literature pertaining to the practice of professional policing in the United States.
- ✓ Describe the common methods, tactics, and strategies in policing.

REQUIRED TEXTS / READINGS

Textbook

Walker, S. & Katz, C (2022). *The Police in America: An Introduction* (10th Edition). McGraw-Hill. ISBN13: 9781260236996.

** If you have trouble locating the 10th edition, you may use the 9th edition in its place. **

Other Readings

Provided electronically by the instructor via Canvas

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins (silke.higgins@sjsu.edu)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Online Discussion (20%): Active participation in discussions is a necessary and integral part of the course. Each week there will be an online discussion, through Canvas, on specific readings and key issues or current events related to that week's overall topic. Students will be expected to discuss the implications of the issue or event to our understanding of the police and their complex relationship with society.

Assignment 1 – Comparison of Law Enforcement Agency Missions (10%): This assignment will require students to compare and contrast two law enforcement agencies of their choosing, and then write a short analysis to explain their findings. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday February 27th.**

Assignment 2 – Analysis of Police Corruption (10%): Students will complete an assigned reading (available on Canvas) pertaining to police corruption, and then write a short analysis in response to instructor-provided prompts. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday April 24th.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS *cont...*

Assignment 3 – Topic Paper (20%): This assignment will require students to select a topic relevant to this course, locate a minimum of six scholarly articles identifying an issue associated with the selected topic, and prepare an assessment of this issue. Detailed instructions pertaining to this assignment are available on Canvas. **This assignment is due Sunday May 1st.**

Midterm and Final Examinations (40%): Students will be administered a Midterm and a Final Examination, each worth 25% of their final grade. Each timed exam will occur online and will cover material from lectures (including all media presented) and assigned readings. Each exam will be non-cumulative and comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.

GRADING INFORMATION

To receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met, and every assignment must be completed. *At the discretion of the course instructor, late assignments/papers may be subject to a deduction of 10 percent for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.*

Grade Scale

A	=	94-100%	A-	=	90-93%
B+	=	87-89%	B	=	83-86%
B-	=	80-82%	C+	=	77-79%
C	=	73-76%	C-	=	70-72%
D+	=	67-69%	D	=	63-66%
D-	=	60-62%	F	=	Below 60%

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses may be found on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Course topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1: Introduction and Course Foundations (01/26 – 01/30)

Orientation to class
Course expectations and outcomes
Police and Society (Walker Ch. 1)

Week 2: History of Policing (01/31 – 02/06)

The History of the American Police (Walker Ch. 2)
Two Models of the Criminal Process (on Canvas)
Video: *History of the British Police Force* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P48YT61zII>

Week 3: Overview of Modern Policing (02/07 – 02/13)

The Contemporary Law Enforcement Industry (Walker, Ch. 3)
Police Organizations (Walker, Ch. 4)

COURSE SCHEDULE *cont...*

Week 4: Recruitment and Training (02/14 – 02/20)

Police Officers I: Recruitment and Training for a Changing Society (Walker, Ch. 5)

Week 5: On the Job (02/21 – 02/27)

Police Officers II: On the Job (Walker, Ch. 6)

Assignment 1 due Sunday February 27th

Week 6: Patrol (02/28 – 03/06)

Patrol: The Backbone of Policing (Walker, Ch. 7)

Week 7: Peacekeeping & Order Maintenance / Police Discretion (03/07 – 03/13)

Peacekeeping and Order Maintenance (Walker, Ch. 8)

Police Discretion (Walker, Ch. 11)

Week 8: The Police “Working Personality” (03/14 – 03/20)

Sketch of the Policeman’s “Working Personality” (on Canvas)

Video: *Policing the Police* <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/policing-the-police/>

Week 9: Midterm Exam (03/21 – 03/27)

*Midterm Exam opens Monday March 21st and closes **FRIDAY March 25th***

Week 10: Spring Recess (03/28 – 04/03)

SPRING RECESS

Week 11: Crime and Criminal Investigation (04/04 – 04/10)

The Police and Crime (Walker, Ch. 9)

Criminal Investigation (on Canvas)

Week 12: Children & Juveniles (04/11 – 04/17)

Responding to Children and Juveniles: Our Nation’s Future (on Canvas)

Assignment 2 due Sunday April 17th

Week 13: Policing Terrorism (04/18 – 04/24)

Terrorism: From Hometown Security to Homeland Security (on Canvas)

Week 14: Ethics and Policing / Police Corruption (04/25 – 05/01)

Liability and Ethics: Is it Legal? Is it Moral? (on Canvas)

Police Corruption (Walker, Ch. 13)

Assignment 3 due Sunday May 1st

COURSE SCHEDULE *cont...*

Week 15: Police Legitimacy & Accountability (05/02 – 05/08)

Legitimacy and Trust and Confidence in the Police (Walker, Ch. 12)
Accountability of the Police (Walker, Ch. 14)

Week 16: The Future of Policing in America (05/09 – 05/15)

The Future of Policing in America (Walker, Ch. 15)

Week 17: Final Exam (05/16 – 05/19)

The Final Exam will be open THURSDAY MAY 19th, 5.15 – 7.30pm ONLY