

Syllabus
CRIJ 5332 section 060
Spring 2023

Instructor: Richard C. Helfers, Ph.D.

Office: CAS 136

Phone: 903-566-7399

Email: rhelfers@uttyler.edu

(The best way to contact me is by using the messaging function in Canvas.)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 11am-1pm and by appointment. Furthermore, I am available throughout the week, so do not hesitate to send me a message and we can arrange an in person office session or one via Zoom.

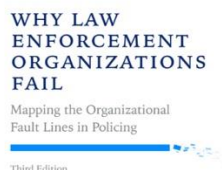
Course Overview: An advanced examination of policing strategies and programs and their related applications in the larger criminal justice system. Emphasis will be placed on using empirical methods to examine the effectiveness of contemporary policing practices from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- | |
|--|
| 1) Discuss the intersection of police officers from a social and political perspective while articulating the challenges policing in a democratic society. |
| 2) Summarize the environment of policing that contributes to organizational failure throughout the institution. |
| 3) Critique the police environment and practices that constrains police reform. |
| 4) Argue through a literature based lens the importance of democratic policing in today's society. |

Required Textbooks and Readings:

O'Hara, P., & Sainato, V. A. (2019). *Why law enforcement organizations fail: Mapping the organizational fault lines in policing* (3rd ed.). Carolina Academic Press. ISBN: 978-1-53101-041-6



Patrick O'Hara
Vincenzo A. Sainato

Sparrow, M. (2016). *Handcuffed: What holds policing back, and the keys to reform*. The Brookings Institution. ISBN: 978-0-8157-2781-1

Handcuffed

What Holds Policing Back,
and the Keys to Reform



MALCOLM SPARROW

Recommended Textbooks and Readings (if applicable):

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition). American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8



Assignments and weights/point values

1. Discussion Boards	15%
2. Group Assignment	25%
3. Flip (Video Discussions)	10%
4. Introduction and Getting Started Quiz	5%
a. Padlet Posting	2.5%
b. Comprehension Quiz	2.5%
5. Lecture Quizzes	5%
6. Preliminary Paper Assignments	10%
a. Topic	2%
b. List of Source in APA format (7 th ed.)	3%
c. Draft	5%
7. Semester Paper	20%
8. Written Assignments (short reflections)	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale:

A	90% or greater
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	below 60%

**keep in mind, I round up. This means a 89.45, rounds to a 89.5, which rounds to a 90.0

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Unfortunately, illnesses, deaths in the family, or other traumatic events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 24 hours of the event **and** provide documentation, I will be happy to give you a make-up quiz or extend an assignment deadline.

The general rule is I will not accept any late assignments. Please pay particular attention to the due dates for each assignment.

Attendance Policy: This is an online course and you are expected to complete the assignments on or before the due date. This is not a work at your own pace course. There are assignments each week you must complete.

UT Tyler does have a [Class Attendance policy](#) in the catalog.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

Discussion Boards:

There will be several discussions during the semester. Each discussion will require you to think and apply the material you learned in your reading. Each discussion board will require you to make a post that is 300 words or greater. You must also use evidence to support your position. This will require you to use the APA documentation style. You must also engage in a discussion. This means making several replies to other students' posts, along with commenting on any posts to your original posting. All your postings (initial posting and each and every reply require at least one paraphrased reference from the reading in APA, 7th ed. Format). **All initial discussion postings are due by 11:59pm each Thursday and the replies completed by 11:59pm on Saturday.**

Flip (Video) Discussions:

There will be a couple flip (video) discussions. These assignments require you to create a video response, no longer than five minutes. Each discussion will require you to think and apply the material you learned in your reading. Then you must also respond (by video) to at least two other students' videos (those responses should also be thorough). **All initial discussion video postings are due by 11:59pm each Thursday and the replies completed by 11:59pm on Saturday.**

Group Project:

There will be one group project that your group will work on that will culminate with two deliverables at the end of the semester. The purpose of the group project is to demonstrate your application of the course concepts with a written report and a video that simulates an

“after action plan” to a governing body (i.e. City Council, Legislative Investigating Committee, etc.). Your group will identify an incident where a failure occurred in a policing agency and then discuss how the concepts you were exposed to during the semester were apparent in your analysis of the incident (your project will highlight your knowledge about how the failure concepts we learned are not compartmentalized, but overlap---in essence, rarely will you only find one of the concepts apparent in a failure—you don’t have to include all of the failure concepts we learned about , but you will need to elaborate on the direct and indirect influence of the ones that are applicable to your chosen incident (your team will discuss the incident with me early in the semester. Keep in mind you must have more than one concept aligned within your deliverables.) You will also describe how you would recommend reform measures be implemented. This will require a collaborative effort among team members and everyone must be thinking deeply. This will also help each of you learn from one another.

Again, the incident will be discussed with me early in the semester via a Zoom meeting with at least the team leader (all members of the team (group) being present would be ideal). You should be meeting briefly with your team throughout Module 2 and 3---this will ensure the development of the project deliverables occur incrementally, which will minimize your stress in the weeks leading up to the project deliverables being due. **(This project also takes the place of a formalized final examination.)**

To work on your project, each student must have a google account so you can work through the collaboration functionality in Canvas that will link to your google account. Your written project will require the group/team to work on a google document. Each member will be identified with a specific color to assist me in understanding the work of each group member. Group members will also evaluate other group members’ participation.

The final report should include the following to maximize your points:

1. Cover Page
2. Executive Summary
3. Description of the Incident
4. Discussion of Concepts related to “Failure” (more than one—all that pertain)
5. Recommendation for Reform Measures to Minimize Reoccurrence
6. Next Steps
7. References

The video will be recorded and uploaded in a professional manner by the group’s team leader or designee. All members should review the recording before it is finalized and uploaded. The recording should be framed as the speaker is presenting to a governing body, such as a city council, legislative investigative committee, etc. Thus, professionalism is the goal (dress, talk, and act the part).

Lecture Quizzes:

There will be a brief lecture video every week that introduces the topic for the week and highlights important concepts we will be learning about. Please watch these intently as questions will “pop-up” that you will be required to answer during the video. These are due by Tuesday of the week they are assigned (except for the first week as I provide some leeway due to students sometimes enrolling late). Please complete the lecture quizzes no later than Tuesdays by 11:59pm.

Preliminary Paper Assignments:

There will be three preliminary paper assignments you will complete. These are known as scaffolding assignments as they are intended for you to be continuously working on your paper throughout the semester. Each builds/scaffolds on the last one. There will be a topic paper assignment where you identify a policing topic of interest to you that is a current issue within the policing environment. Each assignment is detailed in the canvas module for when they are due. These are due no later than the Saturday by 11:59pm in the week they are due.

Semester Paper:

Your literature review must be on the same topic you submitted and I approved during the work you performed in regard to the Paper Topic assignment (see above). This is a topic on a contemporary issue facing policing in the American society.

Details for your paper are below:

1. The paper must be aligned with the topic you had pre-approved by me, which was submitted during week 2 of the semester.
2. You must use one inch margins, Times New Roman with 12 pt font.
3. Use APA formatting standards (title page number your pages at the top right of each page, headings, reference page, etc.).
4. Complete the paper in Microsoft Word. **I will not accept any assignment via email.** It must be uploaded in Canvas (through turn it in)!
5. A fifteen (15) full page minimum that utilizes at least ten (10) peer-reviewed references. (Your title page, abstract, and reference pages are not included in the minimum page requirement).

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. If you have a question about how to properly cite a source, please see me.

Written Assignments:

There will be a couple reflection papers throughout the semester. These assignments are designed for you to apply the knowledge you have learned or were responsible for learning. You will be graded on formatting, organization, mechanics (grammar, spelling, and punctuation), quality of your analysis, and academic diction. You will be required to become familiar and use APA formatting for the assignments. (Refer to the assignment that is contained in the weekly folder for the specifics of each assignment). These assignments are also designed to help you improve your writing skills because effective writing is extremely important for the criminal justice student (and professional).

Minimum Assignment Requirements:

1. You must use one-inch margins, Times New Roman with 12 pt font.
2. Double space.
3. Number your pages at the top right of each page.
4. Use APA format.
5. Use headings as this keeps you focused on what you will write about and it also informs the reader what he or she will read. (It is also an APA requirement)
6. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.
7. Cite credible sources to support your argument.
8. Upload in Canvas using a Word document (.doc or .docx).

Generally, when writing an academic paper you will not use the same informal type language you use during your daily conversations. Informal, conversational language, will negatively impact your grade.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

This is a tentative course schedule: All initial discussions and video postings are due on Thursdays by 11:59pm with replies/responses due on Saturdays by 11:59pm.

Module 1

Becoming Familiar with the Police and Their Environment

Week 1
(Jan 9-14)

Introduction to the Course and Recognizing the Police
Complete the items in the Getting Started Module and Become Familiar with the layout for the course

Reading: Syllabus and Getting Started Module

Read the article for Week 1: Who are the Police? Descriptive Representation in the Coercive Arm of Government by Ba et al. (2022)-located in Module 1

Assignment: Complete the padlet posting and the comprehension quiz (located in the Getting Started Module)

Week 2
(Jan 15-21)

Challenges in Policing

Reading: Read two articles-located in Module 1

Why measure performance? Different purposes require different measures by Behn (2003)

The challenge of policing in a democratic society: A personal journey toward understanding by Ramsey (2014)

Assignment: Paper Topic is due! Upload by 11:59pm on Jan 21.

DB#1: initial posting due not later than 11:59pm on

Thursday, Jan 19 and replies no later than 11:59pm on

Saturday, Jan 21

UT Tyler is closed on Monday, January 16 for the MLK holiday

Module 2

Grasping Why Police Organizations Fail

Week 3
(Jan 22-28)

Ordinary Disaster

Reading: Chapter 1 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Reflection #1 due not later than 11:59pm on Jan 28

January 23 is Census day!

Week 4
(Jan 29-Feb 4)

Diagnosing Organizational Dysfunction
Reading: Chapter 2 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Flip #1: initial posting due not later than 11:59pm on Thursday, Feb 2 and replies no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, Feb 4

Week 5
(Feb 5-11)

Normal Accidents
Reading: Chapter 3 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: List of possible References/Reference Page due no later than 11:59pm on Feb 11.

Week 6
(Feb 12-18)

Structural Failure
Reading: Chapter 4 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: DB#2: initial posting due not later than 11:59pm on Thursday, Feb 16 and replies no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, Feb 18

Week 7
(Feb 19-25)

Oversight Failure/Marginalizing the Guardians
Reading: Chapter 5 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Flip #1: initial posting due not later than 11:59pm on Thursday, Feb 23 and replies no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, Feb 25

Week 8
(Feb 26-Mar 4)

Cultural Deviation
Reading: Chapter 6 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Reflection #2 due not later than 11:59pm on Mar 4

Week 9
(Mar 5-11)

Institutionalization in Policing
Reading: Chapter 7 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Initial draft is due not later than 11:59pm on Mar 11.

Spring Break
(Mar 13-18)

No organized class activities or assignments due

Week 10
(Mar 19-25)

Resource Diversion
Reading: Chapter 8 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: DB#3: initial posting due not later than 11:59pm on Thursday, Mar 23 and replies no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, Mar 25

March 23 is the last day to withdraw from with a "W"

Week 11
(Mar 26-Apr 1)

Managing Imperfection
Reading: Chapter 9 in O'Hara and Sainato

Assignment: Group assignment #1 due no later than 11:59pm on Apr 1

Module 3

Keys to Police Reform

Week 12
(Apr 2-8)

The Legitimacy Crisis in Policing
Reading: Chapter 1-3 in the Sparrow book.

Assignment: Semester paper is due no later than 11:59pm on April 8.

Week 13
(Apr 9-15)

Partnering for a Better Society
Reading: Chapter 4-6 in the Sparrow book.

Assignment: Group assignment #2 due no later than 11:59pm on Apr 15

Module 4

Wrapping It Up!

Week 14
(Apr 16-22)

Group Project Deliverables

Assignment: Complete and submit your group project deliverables (written report and video presentation to a simulated governing body) no later than 11:59pm on Saturday, Apr 22