

Course Syllabus

CRIJ-2328.001, Police Systems & Practices
Fall, 2024 | 3 Semester Credit Hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Police Systems & Practices

Course Number and Section: CRIJ-2328.001

Scheduled Class Days and Times: MWF 12:20PM - 1:15PM, 08/26/2024 - 12/14/2024

Course Location: Ratliff Building North, room 4024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Name: Michael Ferguson

Office Location: CAS 134

Phone Number: 903.730.3927

Email: mferguson@uttyler.edu

Best way to contact: By email (please use your official UTT email account!)

Office Hours: MWF 9:20a-10:00a; T/Th 1p-1:45p; or by appointment.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introductory examination the structures, functions, and operations of law enforcement agencies in the United States, with emphasis on municipal police departments. The course surveys police operations, staff functions, personnel policies, and current innovations utilized in delivering police services. It covers such topics as police discretion, ethics, police-community relations, and the future of policing in American society. This course serves as a prerequisite to CRIJ-4333, Advanced Police Systems and Practices.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. *Describe* the types of police agencies and *explain* the role of police in America within the context of a democratic society.
2. *Describe* means and methods utilized to ensure police accountability.
3. *Explain* the historical development of policing.
4. *Describe* the selection process for police officers.
5. *Compare and contrast* organizational structures, policies, strategies and tactics employed to ensure police effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Cox, S. M., Massey, D., Koski, C. M., & Fitch, B. D. (2020). *Introduction to policing*. Sage Publications, Inc.

Note: We use the 4th edition for this class (ISBN: 9781544339610).

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- Documents: .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- Presentations / graphs: .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. **Attendance in this class is mandatory.** University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topics at hand. As such, attendance at lecture will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of criminal justice. Additionally, attendance will improve your quiz, project, and final exam grades. You will be allowed one unexcused absence. ***Your attendance in class counts as a quiz grade; each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade.***

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quiz, assignment, or test will translate into a score of zero. There will be no extra credit or extensions to complete a quiz, homework, or test.

1. **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate:** You must complete the free, online anti-plagiarism course from the School of Education at Indiana University - Bloomington. Upon completion of the IU course, you must earn at least 90% on the course's exam and upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. **This certificate is worth 5% of your grade.**
2. **Quizzes:** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action during each end-of-module activity. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete a short quiz each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The quizzes are timed. You may take each quiz twice; your highest score earned will count towards your class average. **Quizzes are worth 35% of your grade.**
3. **Online Activities:** You will have several assignments (e.g., a case brief over *Terry v Ohio*) that you're required to complete and upload to Canvas. **These activities are worth 30% of your grade.**
4. **Final Exam:** The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. **Your final exam is worth 30% of your grade.**

GRADE-WEIGHT TABLE

TYPE	WEIGHT
Anti-Plagiarism Certificate	05%
Quizzes	35%
Online Activities	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Students who attend a National Night Out Block Party (the evening of Tuesday, 10/01/2024, in your neighborhood) and who submit to the instructor photographic proof of such will earn five extra points on the final exam grade. Note that for those who do not want to attend an NNO Block Party, attending an NNO Block Party is **not** required. Click [HERE](#) to see a short video about National Night Out.

CENSUS DATE

The census date for the Fall, 2024, semester is **September 9th**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript. For more information on withdrawing from classes, see [THIS SECTION](#) of the UTT Catalog.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity

do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT COURSE MATERIAL

The material presented in this class covers concepts from the mundane to the contentious. It is imperative that all participants understand the importance of keeping discussions civil and appropriate. We will not have a class where individuals are belittled or berated because of a particular opinion on a topic. Ad hominem attacks are the refuge of those who are unable to discuss a position in a scholarly manner. Remember former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt’s take on this issue: “Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.” One of my favorite quotes on this topic is from [Larry Winget](#). He wrote,

To College Students: You don’t need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego. You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking. You need ideas that will offend you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad. This is necessary for growth and learning. So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up.

I’m not asking you to agree with one another; I’m asking you to be civil, thoughtful, and willing to listen. One of the primary ways you learn during your university education is by being exposed to multiple points of view and ideas other than your own. I encourage a spirited, lively, and scholarly discussion of the myriad topics we’ll cover. I believe that groupthink is a horrible thing, so I encourage you to research the topic and present your ideas. Don’t agree with others simply because it’s the easy thing to do. Be yourself and be willing to stand up for your beliefs. Having written the paragraphs above, though, I need to make sure you understand something very important: if you make an assertion of fact, you need to check your source of information and be able to cite the source(s). [Just because something is on the Internet doesn’t mean it’s true](#). Where did you find your information? Is it a valid, scholarly source? Did the author have a political or personal agenda? Did he or she play fast and loose with the facts? In the words of President Ronald Reagan, “trust, but verify!”

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS			
Week No.	Chapter	Topic(s)	Assignments
1	1	Policing in the United States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction, welcome to class, course overview. 2. Read Course Syllabus 3. Anti-Plagiarism Certificate due by Sunday at 11:59p. You must score $\geq 90\%$ on the APC exam and upload your certificate to earn credit for this assignment.

2	2	A Brief History of Police in the United States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No class on Monday -- campus closed for the Labor Day holiday! Chapters One and Two Quizzes due by Sunday at 11:59p
3-4	3	Police Organization and Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p Eras of Policing Infographic (from last week's material) due by Sunday at 11:59p
5-6	4	Recruitment and Selection of Police Officers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
7	5	Police Training and Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p Police Recruiting Report (from last week's material) due by Sunday at 11:59p
8-9	6	Police Work: Operations and Functions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
10	7	Contemporary Strategies in Policing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
11	8	The Police Culture and Work Stress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
12-13	9	Law, Court Decisions, and the Police	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p Terry v Ohio case brief due by Sunday, 11/17, at 11:59p Miranda v Arizona case brief due by Sunday, 11/24, at 11:59p
14	N/A	Thanksgiving Break	NO CLASSES THIS WEEK!
15	11	Police Misconduct and Accountability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Quiz due by Sunday at 11:59p
16	N/A	Final Exam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam (comprehensive)

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)