



Course Syllabus: Police and Community Relations

CRJU 3253 | Online Course

Midwestern State University

Contact Information

Instructor: Michael Alpers

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Course format: Online through D2L

Student meetings: Contact the instructor by email to arrange a meeting

Course Description

Prerequisite: CRJU 1113.

Intergroup relations between the police and the community, with emphasis on the importance of each understanding the problems and perspectives of the other.

Required Textbook and Instructional Materials

Hunter, R. D., & Barker, T. D. (2011). Police community relations and the administration of justice (9th ed.). Prentice Hall.

Additional readings and instructional materials may be posted in D2L.

Study Hours and Academic Support

Students should plan regular weekly time for assigned readings, discussions, quizzes, and work on the final project. Moffett Library provides books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, multimedia materials, study rooms, equipment checkout, and research assistance.

Explore available resources on the [Moffett Library Get Started webpage](#).

Course Requirements

Final Project

Each student will prepare a PowerPoint presentation for use in a community meeting intended to improve relations between the police and the community. A list of topics will be provided at the beginning of Week 2.

- Prepare 25 content slides. The title slide and references slide do not count toward the 25-slide requirement.
- Use at least five academic references representing at least three types of sources.

- Appropriate sources may include books, peer-reviewed journal articles, magazine articles, reliable online sources, and court cases.
- Cite sources and format the reference list in APA style.
- Include approximately 100 words of speaker notes or talking points for each content slide.

Due date: Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. No late final projects will be accepted. Students are encouraged to begin early and contact the instructor with questions well before the deadline.

Participation and Weekly Discussions

Weekly discussions will focus on assigned readings. Participation is mandatory and is included in the participation grade. Unless a different deadline is posted in D2L, weekly assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Sunday of the assigned week.

Weekly Quizzes

A 10-question quiz will be assigned each week based on the textbook chapter and any other assigned readings for that week. Students will have one hour for each quiz. Some questions may be fill-in-the-blank. The instructor will manually review responses and may award credit for substantially correct answers with minor wording differences.

Final Examination

One comprehensive final examination will cover assigned readings, class discussions, and information provided by the instructor. Make-up examinations will not be offered except when required by university policy or an approved accommodation.

Grading

Table 1: Course Grade Weights

Course Requirement	Percentage
Final Project	25%
Final Examination	25%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Participation and Discussions	30%
Total	100%

Final grades are calculated using the weighted percentages shown above. Assignment grades and course progress are available in D2L.

Late Work and Make-Up Work

The final project will not be accepted after the stated deadline. Weekly work and quizzes must be submitted by the deadlines posted in D2L. Make-up examinations are not offered except when required by university policy or an approved accommodation. Contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency or university-approved absence affects your ability to complete coursework.

D2L and Online Course Requirements

This course makes extensive use of the MSU D2L learning management system. D2L is the primary source for assignments, quizzes, discussions, examination materials, announcements, grades, and course information. Students are responsible for checking the course regularly and maintaining reliable internet access and a device capable of opening course materials and submitting assignments.

Access the course through the [MSU D2L login page](#). If technical difficulties occur, contact D2L technical support and notify the instructor promptly.

Attendance and Participation

Because this is an online course, attendance is demonstrated through timely participation in D2L activities, completion of assigned readings, discussions, quizzes, and other coursework. Students should review announcements and course content frequently. Failure to participate does not automatically withdraw a student from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Students must follow the academic honesty standards in the MSU Student Handbook. Academic misconduct may result in course penalties and referral through university procedures. When uncertain whether collaboration, assistance, or use of a source is permitted, ask the instructor before submitting the work.

Review the [MSU Student Handbook](#) and the [Office of Student Conduct webpage](#) for current policies and procedures.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Midwestern State University provides reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations should contact Disability Support Services in the Student Wellness Center at 940-397-4140. Current documentation may be required, and each request is individually reviewed. Students should provide the instructor with the official accommodation notice as early as possible.

For details, visit the [Disability Support Services webpage](#).

Recording Course Content

Recording course content is generally prohibited without the instructor's explicit permission. When permitted, recordings are for personal educational use only and may not be uploaded, shared, transmitted, or published without prior consent. Students approved to record course content as an accommodation must follow the terms established by Disability Support Services.

Emergency Aid and Basic Needs

Unexpected circumstances can affect access to housing, utilities, food, transportation, health care, technology, textbooks, and other necessities. MSU resources may be available. The Office of Student Affairs is located in Clark Student Center, Room 108, and may be reached at 940-397-7500 or student.affairs@msutexas.edu.

Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) for current information.

Campus Safety and University Policies

Campus Carry

Texas campus carry law permits eligible licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in certain locations on public university campuses, except where the university has established an exclusion. Open carry is not permitted on campus. Students are responsible for following current university rules.

Review the [MSU Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

Active Threat Preparedness

Campus safety is a shared responsibility. Students should review MSU Police Department guidance about responding to active threats and other emergencies.

View the preparedness video [Run. Hide. Fight.](#)

Course Schedule and Important Dates

Detailed weekly readings, assignments, quizzes, discussions, examination dates, and due dates are posted in the Course Content area of D2L. Students are responsible for following the schedule in D2L and reviewing course announcements for updates.

University deadlines for schedule changes, graduation applications, drops, and withdrawals are published in the [MSU Academic Calendar](#). Information about leaving a course is available on the [Drops and Withdrawals webpage](#).

Syllabus Changes

The instructor may revise course procedures, assignments, or the schedule when necessary. Any changes will be communicated through D2L. Students are responsible for reviewing course announcements and the current materials posted in D2L.