

Police Systems and Practices – CRJU 2233
Course Syllabus Summer
Location: D2L

Instructor: Michael Alpers

Email: michael.alpers@msutexas.edu

Phone: (940) 397-6306

Office Hours: Tues and Thur (8AM to 2PM) or By Appointment (E-Mail for Appointment Time)

Required Text:

Scaramella, G. L., Cox, S. M., McCamey, W. P. (2013). *Introduction to Policing* (3rd ed.) Los Angeles, California: SAGE Publications, ISBN-13: 9781452256610.

Texts may be purchased by contacting the MWSU bookstore (<http://mwsu.bncollege.com>) or by visiting the MWSU bookstore in person. Additional materials may be assigned.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

A computer with an internet connection (High Speed Internet, Cable or DSL, is **strongly** recommended).

Desire2Learn will be utilized. Students may need to use Mozilla Firefox; other browsers will not always work. Do not take the chance with your grade.

Class (Catalog) Description:

Credit 3 semester hours. Study of the police professions, organization of law enforcement systems, the police role, police discretion and ethics, and current and future issues.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to explore the role that police officers play in the Criminal Justice System. The course is designed to highlight the structure and history of police; the nature of police work; police discretion and misconduct; different types of policing strategies, and the future of the field. After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of past and current policing strategies.
2. Describe the human dynamics that affect policing, such as recruitment, selection and promotion of police officers, training and education, and the subcultural influences that determine individual and group decision making.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of institutional and organizational structures and processes pertaining to the law, of various styles or forms of police practice, and of administrative and leadership issues.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of social, political, and economic forces affecting the field, such as ethics and accountability, forms of misconduct, the changing population in terms of racial and ethnic diversity, relations with and perceptions of police by the citizenries they serve, and various strategies that address these social issues, such as community-based policing, intelligence-led policing, and various other policing strategies.
5. Describe recent factors affecting the field of policing, including issues such as the rapid expansion of technology, the impact of global issues such as terrorism and other forms of transnational crime, the increasing role of the private security industry on police functions, and predictions concerning changes for the profession.

Course Requirements:

- 1. Introduction: (100 pts).** The student's profile should include information that the student is willing to share about him or herself, for example, hometown, major, classification, work experience, and goals or objectives in life. If students have any problems or questions, they should contact the computing center. After the profile has been created, students have to introduce themselves in the introduction forum.
- 2. Examinations: (400 pts)** There will be 4 exams including the final, which will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and matching items. Fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay items may also be included. Each exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish each test within the time allotted.
- 3. Discussion Forum: (500 pts)** This is the primary method of communicating ideas with other students and the instructor. All students must participate in discussions about the readings, uploaded materials, websites, and outside materials in a true seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of a discussion forum.
- 4. Quizzes: (80 pts)** Each chapter reading will have a 5 question quiz over that chapter summary. These quizzes are short and students are allowed 10 minutes to complete the quiz. If students have read the chapter then these will be easy to complete.

Student's participation in the above discussions will be graded. Considerations for grades will include but are not limited to the number of initiated discussions, the number of responses, timeliness, appropriateness, contribution value, and accuracy. Students that log on and respond to a question or topic but have clearly not read the assigned material will receive the lowest number of points possible. Students that log on, participate actively, and have clearly read the material may receive the highest grade possible. Average work will receive the median point value. Participation grades will occur randomly but equally for all students across the semester.

All quizzes and exams must be completed as assigned. Otherwise, '0' points will be recorded for the missing work and grades will be calculated as usual.

Grading Scale: Total Points: Top 10% =A, 11-20%= B, 21-30%=C, 31-40%=D, and 41%+= F

Class Policies:

Etiquette, Communication Expectations, & Freedom of Expression: Academia is dependent on the ability of all participants to freely express ideas. Many of our discussions involve ideas or behaviors that may be offensive but this does not mean that our discussions should be offensive. Students must be courteous, tolerant, and refrain from personal attacks when others' beliefs differ from theirs. There are limits on freedom of expression, which carry penalties within the university and under the law if not observed. Please refrain from comments that could be considered obscene, harassing, menacing, hostile, or slanderous.

The use of correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling (no internet/text acronyms) are expected in all written forms of communication associated with this course.

Safe Zones Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Academic Honesty and Integrity: Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will **not be tolerated**, whether intentional or not.

Student Honor Creed

As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception. Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student. We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed. Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and unethical practices will not be tolerated. Consequences include an F on an assignment and/or an F for the course.

Academic dishonesty involves the inappropriate use of someone else's work product. While preparing for a test, students may study together but they should not work together while taking the test. On discussions, students may receive feedback from others; but, it is unacceptable to have someone else write a section of the discussion or for the student to copy or use a portion of someone else's discussion whether or not it has been previously published. *It is also inappropriate to use a paper or sections of a paper for which the student has previously received credit (course credit, thesis, publication, payment through a grant or assistantship etc.). Double dipping is a violation of academic honesty, unless it is explicitly agreed upon in advance.* While presenting someone else's ideas as one's own is obvious when done *verbatim*, students must also guard against more subtle forms of plagiarism, such as the failure to appropriately cite materials. If unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the university guidelines as well as those of professional organizations, and writing manuals (APA style guide, etc).

Absenteeism and Tardiness: Virtual classroom discussion depends on the preparedness of students. Discussions and participation on-line are a portion of the grade. It is not possible for students to "make up" missed discussions. Missed exams and quizzes will be excused (with proper documentation) only for dire emergencies and approved university sponsored or sanctioned events. Work-related absences are generally not excused.

Make-up Policy: If students miss an exam or quiz for a valid and university acceptable reason, they should contact the instructor immediately. Missed exams and quizzes will be recorded as a "0" until the student presents a valid written excused absence and the instructor will keep this for the student's records. A make-up test may be given the following week, later in the semester, or at the end of the semester, at the discretion of the instructor. There are no make-ups for discussions.

An Incomplete: Grades of “I” will be issued only on rare occasions where a student is unable to complete an assignment toward the end of the course because of truly exigent circumstances.

Student Services: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they've 1) passed English 1113 and English 1123 and 2) earned 60 hours. You may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. Please keep in mind that, once you've earned over 90 hours, you lose the opportunity to take the \$25 exam and have no option but to enroll in the three-credit hour course. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr>, or call 397-4131.

Additional Policies & Procedures:

Other class policies and procedures follow the *MWSU Student Handbook* (please see <http://forms.mwsu.edu/uploaded-forms/Student-Handbook-20100825-163916.pdf>) **Tentative Course Schedule and**

Tentative Due Dates:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust and change the syllabus and course schedule as needed.

It is incumbent on each student to monitor Desire2Learn and their official email account **REGULARLY**. Dates may change. Assignments may be adjusted. Additional work may be suggested or necessitated based on current environmental and situational issues. Accessing these accounts once per week will not be sufficient if an above average grade is desired. This is the student's responsibility!!

Caution: Do not wait until the last minute to complete discussions or quizzes. There may be problems with internet connections, Desire2Learn, work or family issues, etc.