COURSE INFORMATION

Classroom: N/A
Class time: Online
Faculty: Charles Klahm, Ph.D. (charles.klahm@wayne.edu)
Office: 3253 Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)
Phone #: 313.577.0302
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is an introduction to research on policing in the United States. We will cover a variety of topics related to the police, including the history, role, and decision-making of officers, as well as the relationship between crime occurrences, local police, and communities. Moreover, we will discuss the role of community, collective efficacy and community groups as they relate to the idea of citizens as co-producers of public safety and security. You will also examine the issues of legitimacy and equity as they relate to policing and citizens’ perceptions of authority. Importantly, some of the issues covered in the readings are controversial. These readings were chosen to stimulate thinking and discussion in class. The authors’ views do not necessarily reflect mine.

READINGS

All readings are required and posted on Blackboard under each weeks’ module. Many of the readings are highly technical and rely on advanced statistical analysis. It is not important for you to focus on the statistical minutia, but you should be cognizant of the methods used (i.e., how the data were collected, how key concepts were operationalized, etc.). Thus, you should focus on understanding how the studies were conducted and the major findings. Understand that a large amount of reading is a staple of graduate training. You must adapt to these high demands of reading if you wish to succeed. Do not procrastinate.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

If students successfully complete this course they should:

1. Understand the importance of policing research;
2. Understand the questions scholars seek to answer through high-quality research endeavors;
3. Understand the varied methodologies used to answer research questions;
4. Understand how policing research informs policy.

At the conclusion of the semester, students should have an:

• Understanding of the research on factors that shape police behavior;
• Understanding of the research on effectiveness of policing strategies and tactics;
• Ability to critically assess issues related to policing in American society;
• Understanding of how research informs policing in the United States.

COURSE POLICIES

Curving: Under no circumstance will there be a curve applied to any assignment or the course as a whole.

Deadlines: They are firm. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an extraordinary circumstance (e.g., medical reasons, accidents, death in the family) for which legitimate documentation is provided (e.g., doctor’s note, police report, obituary, etc.).

Academic dishonesty: I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, etc.). Anyone engaging in such behavior will receive an F for the course. Please familiarize yourself with Wayne State University’s policy regarding academic integrity (http://www.doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf). Please note that all assignments will undergo a plagiarism detection search using SafeAssign.

Blackboard issues or technical problems: This course is offered completely through the internet using Blackboard. Contact the C&IT Helpdesk immediately at (313) 577-4778 if you are having issues accessing the class. Students MUST have reliable access to a computer with an internet connection such as a cable modem, DSL, or a T-1 connection, whether it is at home, at school, or another location of their choice. The WSU Blackboard Helpdesk may be reached by phone at (313) 577-4778 or by e-mail at helpdesk@wayne.edu. Help is also available within the Blackboard course by clicking on the “Help” link in the Course Content area on the left side of the webpage. Please DO NOT e-mail the professor for technical support. You must contact the WSU C&IT Helpdesk to resolve any user problems you have. If students do not follow these directions and subsequently have issues meeting deadlines, the instructor will not delay grade deadlines.

Communication policy: This class is an online course, so e-mail correspondence is vital to its success and to ensure good communication.

• I will do my best to return e-mails within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. On weekends, I will NOT return e-mails. When emailing me, be sure to (1) include the course number and name in the subject line and (2) state your full name at the end of the email.
• Email me only from your University provided email account. I will not open emails generated from other service providers for security reasons.
• Grades for all assignments may take up to 7 working days after the assignments’ deadlines have passed.
GRADING SCALE

A   = 100-94    B   = 86-84    C   = 76-74    D   = 66-64
A-  = 93-90    B-  = 83-80    C-  = 73-70    D-  = 63-60
B+  = 89-87    C+  = 79-77    D+  = 69-67    F   = < 60

COURSE POINTS

You will be graded based on your performance in the following areas:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly summaries</td>
<td>40 pts.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course paper</td>
<td>60 pts.</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>100%</td>
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WEEKLY READING SYNTHETIZATION (a graduate-level summary)

Throughout the course of the semester you must write a total of 10 summaries based on the module’s assigned readings. Below you will find a listing of modules and you must choose 10 to write a 1-page, single spaced summary of the assigned readings each of your selected weeks’ modules. Each summary is worth 4 points, for a total of 40 points. Your summaries are due by 11:59pm on the Sunday of each week. For example, if you choose to write a summary of the assigned readings for module 2 it is due by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 22, 2017. After 11:59pm on due dates, the link to submit your work will disappear. All summaries must be prepared using Microsoft Word, and will be graded on content and writing quality. It is important to understand that the expectation is for you to synthesize the material you read and provide a summary. Weekly summaries that merely provide a paragraph about study A, followed by a paragraph about study B, and so on will not score well. Also, keep in mind that grading on the weekly summaries becomes progressively harsher as the semester progresses. Thus, if you are making the same (or similar) mistakes in week 10 that you made in week 1, the points deducted will be greater in week 10. This is because I expect for you to take the time to read the comments I leave you, reflect on them, and make the necessary adjustments. For each summary you submit, I will grade it electronically in Blackboard. In doing so, I will likely leave comments, questions, and/or suggestions. If you have trouble seeing my commentary, notify me immediately. Otherwise, I will assume you have read my comments and will act accordingly.

Eligible modules: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 – you must choose 10 of these 11 modules.

COURSE PAPER

At the conclusion of the semester you will submit a 15-20 page term paper (see Blackboard for details).
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Module 1): January 9, 2017 - January 15, 2017: Introduction to the course


Paper topics due – you will not receive any points for this submission; however, if you fail to submit a draft of your paper topic by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 22, 2017 your final paper grade will be reduced by a letter grade.

Week 3 (Module 3): January 23, 2017 - January 29, 2017: Role of police


Week 4 (Module 4): January 30, 2017 - February 5, 2017: **Discretion**


Week 5 (Module 5): February 6, 2017 - February 12, 2017: **Use of force**


Week 6 (Module 6): February 13, 2017 - February 19, 2017: **Demeanor**


**Reference list due – you will not receive any points for this submission; however, if you fail to submit a draft of your reference list by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 19, 2017 your final paper grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**Week 7 (Module 7): February 20, 2017 - February 26, 2017: Community Involvement**


**Week 8 (Module 8): February 27, 2017 - March 5, 2017: Race and Place**


Week 9 (Module 9): March 6, 2017 - March 12, 2017: **Broken Windows and Neighborhood Disorder**


**First draft of paper due – you will not receive any points for this submission; however, if you fail to submit a draft of your paper by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 12, 2017 your final paper grade will be reduced by two letter grades.**

Week 10: March 13, 2017 - March 19, 2017: **Spring Break – No class meetings**

Week 11: March 20, 2017 - March 26, 2017: **ACJS – No class meetings**

Week 12 (Module 10): March 27, 2017 - April 2, 2017: **Citizen Attitudes Toward Police**


Week 13 (Module 11): April 3, 2017 - April 9, 2017: **Procedural Justice/Police Legitimacy**


**Week 14 (Module 12): April 10, 2017 - April 16, 2017: Community Policing and Problem Solving**

   **Chapter 4**: Problem-Oriented Policing: The Basic Elements.


   **Chapters 5**: Agendas for Change, **6**: Taking Crime Prevention Seriously, **7**: Options for Policing, & **8**: A Blueprint for the Future.

A final draft of your paper is due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 23, 2017. Late papers will not be accepted.