**CRMJ 3490-80**

**ISSUES IN POLICING**

**(3 credits)**

### **Professor:** Dr. Clair White **Semester/Year:** Fall 2019

**Phone:** 307-766-2919 **Class Day/Time:** Thurs 4pm-6:50pm

**Email:** [cwhite41@uwyo.edu](mailto:cwhite41@uwyo.edu) **Location:** Distance Learning

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:30am-12:30pm

Thursdays 1pm- 3pm

Or by appointment

**Availability:** Monday through Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, I will respond to emails within 24 hours, but typically within the same day if you contact me during normal hours. If you email me after 5pm, I may not get back to you until the next morning. Please avoid emailing me over the weekend, unless it is an emergency. This means that if you email me at 6pm on a Friday, you may not hear from me until Monday morning.

\*\*\*Please use Wyo email for all correspondence

\*\*\*All times are Mountain Standard Timezone

**Textbook and Resources:**

Dunham, R. G. & Alpert, G. P. (2015). *Critical Issues in Policing,* 7th edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

Moskos, P. (2008). *Cop in the Hood: My Year in Policing Baltimore’s Eastern District.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Supplemental articles available on WyoCourses

WyoCourses: WyoCourses provides the opportunity to have all of the course materials in one place that is accessible to everyone. Assignments and announcements will be posted to this site. As part of the requirements for this class, you are expected to check and use this site regularly. **Make sure to check your UW email as this is the address that will be utilized for any posted announcements.**  If you have difficulties with WyoCourses at any time during the semester, use the technical support available by calling 307-766-3726 or emailing [wyocourses@uwyo.edu](mailto:wyocourses@uwyo.edu).

Zoom: The weekly class-time will be conducted through conference calls using Zoom, a video-conferencing service provided by the university. Students will need to have a computer with a microphone and video camera. The link to participate in the Zoom video conference will be provided on WyoCourses.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Policing in America presents a unique challenge for society and police officers play a critical role in the criminal justice system working in the community and coming into contact with citizens and offenders. The vast majority of American society recognizes the need for a uniformed policing authority, but does not want to be bothers by the police unless an emergency rises. The course examines the various components of policing from both theoretical and practical frameworks. Students are exposed to the abundance of research that informs current policing practice and will be called upon to critically evaluate this research and its implications for policing policy and practice. We will attempt to examine the issue of policing within the broader context of the society in which we live and the challenged presented to the police and community. By integrating theory, research, and policy, this course will provide a foundation in the history of policing, perceptions of the police, police roles and work, police culture/behavior, use of force and other related topics.

The objectives of this course are:

1. To obtain a clear understanding of the history of policing and how it relates to modern day police and community relationships
2. To identify and explain police work, operations, culture and behavior.
3. To obtain a clear understanding of the challenges and dilemmas facing professional police force in a free society
4. To increase familiarity with issues of police discretion and use of force
5. To develop critical thinking and writing skills pertaining to policing and the criminal justice system
6. To obtain a clear understanding of police ethics and situations leading to deviance
7. To learn the central issues in police research and policy, including evidence-based practices
8. To understand relationships between the police and different community groups
9. To synthesize knowledge on policing through class discussion and written exams.

**Course Organization:** The course objectives will be achieved by readings, lectures, discussions, and exams.

1. **Readings**: Readings will consist of chapters in the text and supplemental readings. It is expected that you will have read the assigned readings prior to class.
2. **Lectures**: Some of the topic areas will be presented with lectures during the in-class time via Zoom and some lectures will be provided online, therefore attendance during class time is strongly encouraged, but not required. This is also an opportunity to ask questions or engage in discussion over the material.
3. **Discussion Questions:** Two discussion questions for each week’s class based on the weekly readings will be due by 3pm Thursday prior to class, **submitted via WyoCourses.** You may need to highlight an excerpt from the readings to provide context for the discussion question. These questions will be used to facilitate discussion with your group.
4. **Discussion:** Each week you are expected to participate in discussion during the scheduled Zoom class. Your two discussion questions should be prepared prior to class to facilitate discussion. The discussions will primarily be *student led*, I will typically break the class up into small groups of 3-4 students, to engage in discussion over Zoom, sometimes I will pose a starter question to begin the discussion.

For those students unable to attend the Zoom class section, you will be responsible for the two weekly discussion questions as well as two response posts in an online discussion board in WyoCourses. I will form online groups each week based on who is absent from class on Thursday. This online discussion board will be created Friday and students should post their submitted discussion questions in the discussion board by Friday at 11:59pm and then respond to two posts/questions (2-3 paragraphs) by the following Tuesday. Each week will have its own discussion board and will close Tuesdays at 11:59pm. **If you attend class and participate in the Zoom discussions, you do not need to participate in the online discussion board.**

Some notes about the online discussion board:

* all posts should have complete sentences, correct spelling and grammar, and employ a formal academic tone
* all posts should make specific reference to particular points in the course materials and/or other individual’s posts
* excellent posts make connections across several sources of information (either different readings on the same topic, or connections between old material and new material)
* excellent posts respond to specific points in other students’ posts in a meaningful way that moves the conversation forward
* excellent posts inspire many responses from other students
* excellent posts do not just relate facts, but take on a critical yet respectful tone with regard to readings, lectures or other posts. This means that you take a position, and provide a logical, reasoned defense of your position.
* number of posts goes beyond minimum required three posts

1. **Current Context Papers:** Each student will be responsible for submitting three current context papers throughout the semester. Each paper consists of a one page paper in which the student summarizes a current newspaper article and relates to specific material we have covered in class. The newspaper articles must have been published recently (August 2019- December 2019) from a reputable news source (The *Washington Post,*The*New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times, BBC, The Atlantic, NBC News, CNN, Reuters, The Associated Press, National Public Radio, local/regional newspapers)*. There are not specific due dates for these papers, but **students are strongly cautioned to avoid procrastination in the writing assignments**. Papers must be submitted via WyoCourses, with attached article. Only one current context paper can be submitted per week. Students should properly cite any quoted or paraphrased material. All papers must be submitted by Friday, December 6 at 11:59pm. *Note:* Since only one paper can be turned in per week, the first paper should be submitted by November 22.
2. **In-class exercises:** There will be some exercises/activities assigned during the Zoom lectures throughout the course of the semester. These exercises and their requirements will be discussed in class as they are assigned. If you do not attend the in-class lecture it is your responsibility to follow-up about these assigned activities and when they are due.
3. **Exams**: There will be two exams, one midterm exam and one final exam, administered through WyoCourses. The final exam is not accumulative, but themes may carry over from the first half of the semester. **It is your responsibility to understand this structure prior to taking the test.**
4. The test link will become available on **the specified Friday at 12:01am** (following Thursday’s class) **and will close at 11:59pm on the following Wednesday, so at 12:00am, the test link will disappear.** You must begin the exam within the specified timeframe (about one week).
5. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam. **Once you have started the test, you must complete it within the two hour timeframe.** For every minute you go over in time, I will deduct 1 point from your grade on the exam.
6. The tests will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
7. All tests will be randomized – no two students in the class will get exactly the same test questions. Additionally, the order of questions and the answer choices of the questions will be randomized.
8. You can only take the test once.
9. You are allowed to use your notes and book for the test, but if you rely on being able to look up answers to every question, you will run out of time. You will need to study and prepare for the exams to be able to do well and complete in the allotted time.
10. Students must take exam independently and should not be working together, no exceptions.
11. If WyoCourses does crash while taking a test, here is what you need to do:
    1. Email me IMMEDIATELY. In your email tell me at what time you started experiencing your problems.
    2. I can restart the test for you so you can complete your exam.

Missing a scheduled exam due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero. In order to be permitted to make up an exam, the absence must be due to an authorized excuse.

Make-up exams will be given only under the following conditions:

1. Participation in organized school activity.

2. Death in the immediate family.

3. Illness (with doctor’s written excuse).

4. Special circumstances that are approved to be appropriate by the instructor.

**FOR EACH OF THESE EXCUSES, YOU MUST HAVE DOCUMENTATION TO MAKE UP YOUR EXAM!** Make up exams will only be given to those students who have discussed their absence with the instructor and have a legitimate excuse. Legitimate excuses do not include sleeping in, leaving early for breaks, work schedule, and other such excuses.Make-up exams will need to be scheduled with the instructor and will need to be completed within one week of the excused absence.

**University Excuse**: In order to be excused from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor’s excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the students' absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>. Doctor’s excuses must be obtained from your attending physician. Be advised that student health does not provide excused absences. These excuses must be for the exam date and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor’s appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

**Grading:** In addition to the discussion leader/questions, written assignments, exams, and final paper, the total number of points available will depend on the number of in-class exercises or group work assignments. The points for these assignments will add to the total number of points in the class and are ***NOT*** extra credit.

Points will be divided between assignments as follows:

Discussion Questions and Participation (10) 10 points 100 points

Current Context Papers (3) 25 points 75 pts.

Mid-term exam 100 points

Final Exam 100 points

***TOTAL:*** 375 points + any in-class assignments, group work, or quizzes

***Grading Scale*:**

A 90% – 100%

B 80% – 89.9%

C 70% – 79.9%

D 60% - 69.9%

F 59% or less

**All assignments will be lowered five points each day they are late. They are considered late if not received at the beginning of class.**

**Writing Center:** I highly encourage every student to visit the UW Writing Center for assistance with writing for all your courses. To make an appointment, click “Schedule a Consultation” at http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl/writing-center/index.html.

Additional student resources regarding UW’s commitment to diversity, upholding non-discriminatory policies and Title IV, duty to report, academic dishonesty, as well as other resources can be found on the class WyoCourse site under the **Classroom Climate &Conduct** and **Learning Tools** tabs. Please do not hesitate to ask me if you have trouble findings any of this information.

**Sharing Mutual Expectations:** Since we are engaging in the process of learning about an area of study, it is vital that we all understand the expectations we have for one another.

***What You May Expect of Professor White***

***A sincere effort*** to help you learn the course material. I intend to spend enough time and effort in class preparation to make the material as understandable and interesting as we possibly can. If something is unclear, please ask questions.

***Accessibility-*** I agree to be available to you outside of class should you desire help, clarification, etc. Naturally, I cannot promise to be free to talk with you at length at any time during the day or night. If you get in touch with me at a time when I am occupied with something that can’t wait, I will gladly set another time to meet with you.

***Attention/courtesy****-* When you are speaking, you have my full attention. I will not ridicule you or express disagreement in an impolite way.

***Fairness****-*Your grade will be based upon what you have learned and participation. It will not be based upon personal consideration nor whether I agree upon an issue.

***All students will be treated the same way.*** Please do not ask me to round up your final grade, give you extra credit work etc. I need to treat all students the same way to be fair and equitable.

***What I Will Expect of You***

***A sincere effort***to learn the course material and participate in class. It is difficult to understand course material and do well in the course if you do not read the material, think critically about your discussion questions, and spend a few hours a week studying and preparing for the exams. I expect you will be motivated to understand the course material and discuss material with other class members. This will enable us to have lively discussions in class and allow you to ask pertinent questions regarding the material.

***Careful and complete reading***of the assignments.

***Attention/Courtesy***Just as I will not be inattentive or impolite to you, I expect your full attention in class. When a student or instructor is speaking, I expect you to give that person your undivided attention. Also, please do not engage in side-bar conversations during the class. This makes it difficult for other students to hear and to follow the content of the presentation. ***Although this may seem obvious, turn off your (or silent) cell-phone before the class begins, do not read the newspaper, work on crossword or Sudoku puzzles, play on your laptop, etc. If you are expecting a call, please let me know BEFORE class and sit near the door.***

***Promptness--***Come to class on time and leave class at the end of the class period. If you need to leave early for some valid reason, please sit at the back of the classroom and, before the class begins, inform me that you will need to leave early. Also, I fully expect you will comply with all due dates. **Due dates are firm.**

***Courtesy/Civility***—I expect that you will treat me with respect both inside and outside of the classroom. As college students, you are considered adults and I will treat you accordingly. I expect that you act accordingly. Your college experience is training for present or future job opportunities and should be treated as such. Non-passing grades are your responsibility, not the professor’s. Do not ask me to change your grade based on how hard you have worked, the number of times you have taken the course, losing your scholarship, how angry your parents will be, how we have ruined your life etc. Do not ask me to round up your final percent so you can get a higher grade.

***E-mail interaction***—I am happy to respond to your e-mail questions and seeking of information. Please be polite when you write these e-mails, address them to Prof. or Dr. White, use proper English and letter formatting.

**Disclaimer**: Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. However, any changes will be announced in class or on the course website. The syllabus is meant to be an outline of what to expect during the course and may not be followed exactly.