

CRCJ 8040: Police & Society
Fall 2018
Tuesday 5:30 – 8:10PM
CPACS 122

Justin Nix
Email: jnix@unomaha.edu
Phone: 402-554-6157
Office: CPACS 218Y
Office Hours: Tuesday 3 – 5PM or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to explore the role of the police in American society. Attention is given to the origins of policing, the nature of police organizations and police work, and patterns of relations between the police and the public. The values of a democratic society as they affect the law enforcement role are discussed.

Required Readings

All of the required readings are available on Canvas. I expect you to read critically and come prepared to discuss how the material relates to contemporary policing and society. You are encouraged to bring in additional material as you see fit (e.g., news articles, video clips, other articles/books you are familiar with).

Writing Assignments

You are required to write three reaction papers throughout the semester. These should be 2 – 3 pages (double-spaced), and each is worth 5% of your grade. You may only write one reaction paper for any given week.

Research Proposal and Presentation

Each student will select a topic on which to write a research proposal and make an oral presentation to the class based upon its content. The written proposal should be 10 – 15 pages (double-spaced) and the oral presentation should be 10 – 15 minutes (or 20 including Q&A). The written proposal is due no later than **November 20th**, and oral presentations will take place during our last two classes. We will discuss this assignment in more detail later in the semester. Topics must be approved by me, and should be submitted in writing (approx. one page) no later than **October 2nd**.

Grading

Attendance & participation	40%
Writing assignments	15%
Research proposal	25%
Research presentation	20%

90 – 100	= A
80 – 89	= B
70 – 79	= C
60 – 69	= D
0 – 59	= F

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the policy on academic integrity (<https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/student-conduct-and-community-standards/policies/academic-integrity.php>). Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Instances of academic dishonesty will, at a minimum, result in a failing grade for that assignment, and a record of academic dishonesty will be placed in the student's academic file that is maintained by the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

Students with Special Needs

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students who are registered with Disability Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Disability Services (EAB 117, Phone: 554-2872) or go to the website: www.unomaha.edu/disability.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
Week 1 8/21	Introduction and overview	Syllabus Schwartz (2008) Jeter (2018, August) Mac Donald (2017)
Week 2 8/28	The function of the police	Bittner (1980) Greene (2000) Dunham & Alpert (2015)
Week 3 9/4	Socialization I	Westley (1953) Bittner (1967) Van Maanen (1978)
Week 4 9/11	Socialization II	Bayley & Bittner (1984) Crank & Langworthy (1992) Klinger (1997)
Week 5 9/18	Police discretion I	Goldstein (1960) Goldstein (1963) Bayley & Garofalo (1989)
Week 6 9/25	Police discretion II	Klinger (1994) Worden & Shepard (1996) Worden et al. (1996)
Week 7 10/2	Bias, misconduct, and accountability <i>(topics due)</i>	Kane (2002) Smith & Alpert (2007) Rojek et al. (2012a)
Week 8 10/9	Police use of nonlethal force	On your own
Week 9 10/16	<i>Fall Break – No class</i>	—
Week 10 10/23	Police use of lethal force	On your own
Week 11 10/30	Body-worn cameras	On your own

Week 12 11/6	Policing post-Ferguson	On your own
Week 13 11/13	ASC Conference – No class	—
Week 14 11/20	No class (research proposals due)	—
Week 15 11/27	Student presentations I	—
Week 16 12/4	Student presentations II	—

Please note that I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as necessary in order to meet learning objectives, compensate for missed classes, or for similar reasons.