

CRCJ 8040: Police & Society

Justin Nix

Fall 2022

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CPACS 218Y

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Class Hours: ***

Class Room: ***

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the function of the police in American society – all the while considering the challenges associated with balancing civil liberties on the one hand with the goal of controlling crime on the other. I will push you to think critically about the scientific methods used to answer various research questions, as well as reflect on policing's contributions to the larger CJ system and society, more generally.

Required Readings

I expect you to read critically and come prepared to discuss how the material relates to contemporary policing and society. All of the required readings are available on Canvas and/or linked in the course schedule below.

Journals

Each week at the end of class, I'll ask you to take approximately 10 minutes to reflect on a question or issue and write your thoughts down in a "journal." Then as you do the readings for the following week on your own time, you'll update your journal. *Do you still feel the same way? Why or why not? Did the readings change your mind or make you to think about the issue in a different way? What questions do you still have?* At the beginning of the next class, we'll break the ice by discussing what you wrote in your journals.

Exams

There will be two in-class exams this semester: a midterm on October 5th and a final on December 14th. For each exam, you will choose one of three essay questions, using class time to respond to it.

Grades

- Attendance and participation: 25%
- Journal: 25%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%

These weighted scores will be added up at the end of the semester to generate your overall grade in the course:

| Letter Grade | Score |
|--------------|----------|
| A | 90 - 100 |
| B | 80 - 89 |
| C | 70 - 79 |
| D | 60 - 69 |
| F | 0 - 59 |

Academic Integrity

Don't cheat. Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the [policy on academic integrity](#). 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.

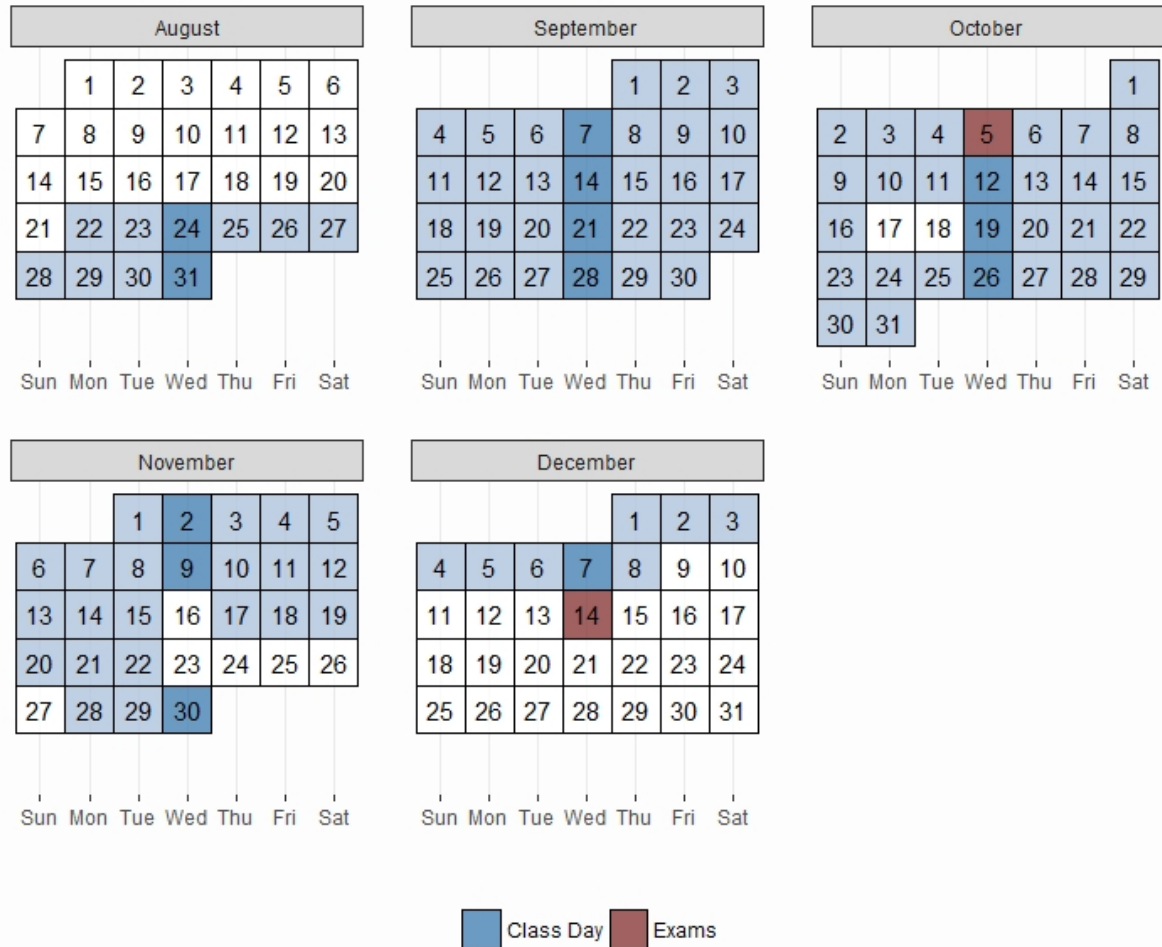
Students with Accessibility Issues

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with the Accessibility Services Center and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact the Accessibility Services Center (MBSC 126, Phone 554-2872, TTY 554-3799, or visit their [website](#)).

Tentative Class Schedule

CRCJ 8040 - Fall 2022

Course Calendar



Notable dates: Fall Break (Oct 17-18), ASC Conference (Nov 16-19), Thanksgiving Break (Nov 23-27), Study Days (Dec 9-10)

Week 1, 08/24 | Introduction

- Schwartz, M. A. (2008). [The importance of stupidity in scientific research](#). *Journal of Cell Science* 121: 1771.
- Packer, H. L. (1964). [Two models of the criminal process](#). *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 113, 1-68.
- Kaba, M. (2020, Jun 12). [Yes, we mean literally abolish the police](#). *The New York Times*.

Week 2, 08/31 | Function of Police

- Klockars, C. (1985). [The idea of police](#). SAGE Publications, Inc.
 - Chapters 1-3
- President's Commission on Law Enforcement & Administration of Justice (1967). [The challenge of crime in a free society](#). Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office.
 - Chapter 4

Week 3, 09/07 | Function of Police

- Bittner, E. (1980). [The functions of the police in modern society: A review of background factors, current practices, and possible role models](#). Oelgeschlager, Gunn & Hain.
 - Chapters 1 & 2
- Thacher, D. (2022). [Shrinking the police footprint](#). *Criminal Justice Ethics*, 41(1), 62-85.

Week 4, 09/14 | Police Culture

- Van Maanen, J. (1973). [Observations on the making of policemen](#). *Human Organization*, 32(4), 407-418.
- Van Maanen, J. (1978). [Kinsmen in repose: Occupational perspectives of patrolmen](#). In P. Manning & J. Van Maanen (Eds.), *Policing: A View from the Street* (pp. 115-128). Goodyear publishing Co.
- Van Maanen, J. (1978). [The asshole](#). In P. Manning & J. Van Maanen (Eds.), *Policing: A View from the Street* (pp. 221-238). Goodyear Publishing Co.

Week 5, 09/21 | Police Culture

- Skolnick, J. (1966). *Justice without trial: Law enforcement in democratic society*. John Wiley.
 - Chapters 3 & 9
- Bittner, E. (1974). Florence Nightingale in pursuit of Willie Sutton: A theory of the police. In H. Jacob (Ed.), *The potential for reform of criminal justice*. Sage Publications, Inc.
- Crank, J. & Langworthy, R. (1992). [An institutional perspective of policing](#). *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 83, 338-363.

Week 6, 09/28 | Discretion

- Bittner, E. (1967). [The police on Skid-Row: A study of peace keeping](#). *American Sociological Review*, 32(5), 699-715.
- Wilson, J. Q. (1978) [Varieties of police behavior: The management of law & order in eight communities](#). Harvard University Press.
 - Chapter 4
- Walker, S. (1992). [Taming the system: The control of discretion in criminal justice 1950-1990](#). Oxford University Press.
 - Chapter 2

Week 7, 10/05 | Midterm Exam

- No readings

Week 8, 10/12 | Reducing Crime

- Sherman, L. (1986). [Policing communities: What works?](#) *Crime & Justice*, 8, 343-386.
- Sherman, L., Gartin, P., & Buerger, M. (1989). [Hot spots of predatory crime: Routine activities and the criminology of place](#). *Criminology*, 27(1), 27-56.

Week 9, 10/19 | Reducing Crime

- Goldstein, H. (1979). [Improving policing: A problem-oriented approach](#). *Crime & Delinquency*, 25(2), 236-258.
- Wilson, J. Q. & Kelling, G. (1982). [Broken windows](#). *The Atlantic*.
- Eck, J. & Spelman, W. (1987). [Who ya gonna call? The police as problem-busters](#). *Crime & Delinquency*, 33(1), 31-52.

Week 10, 10/26 | Police Use of Force

- Fyfe, J. (1986). [The split-second syndrome and other determinants of police violence](#). In A. Campbell & John Gibbs (Eds.), *Violent transactions* (pp. 207-223). Basil Blackwell.
- Bayley, D. & Garofalo, J. (1989). [The management of violence by police patrol officers](#). *Criminology*, 27(1), 1-26.

Week 11, 11/02 | Police Use of Force

- Smith, D. (1986). [The neighborhood context of police behavior](#). *Crime and Justice*, 8, 313-341.
- Terrill, W. & Reisig, M. (2003). [Neighborhood context and police use of force](#). *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 40(3), 291-321.

Week 12, 11/09 | Accountability and Oversight

- Skolnick, J. & McCoy, C. (1984). [Police accountability and the media](#). *American Bar Foundation Research Journal*, 9(3), 521-557.
- Walker, S. (2022). [The Justice Department's Pattern-or-Practice Police Reform Program, 1994-2017: Goals, achievements, and issues](#). *Annual Review of Criminology*, 5, 21-42.

- President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015). *Final report of the President's Task force on 21st Century Policing*. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.
 - Pillar 2

Week 13, 11/16 | ASC Conference - No class

Week 14, 11/23 | Thanksgiving Break - No class

Week 15, 11/30 | Legitimacy

- Tyler, T. & Blader, S. (2003). *The group engagement model: Procedural justice, social identity, and cooperative behavior*. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 7(4), 349-361.
- Bell, M. (2017). *Police reform and the dismantling of legal estrangement*. *The Yale Law Journal*, 126(7), 2054-2150.

Week 16, 12/07 | Legitimacy

- Nix, J., & Wolfe, S. E. (2017). *The impact of negative publicity on police self-legitimacy*. *Justice Quarterly*, 34(1), 84-108.
- Nix, J., Pickett, J. T., & Wolfe, S. E. (2020). *Testing a theoretical model of perceived audience legitimacy: The neglected linkage in the dialogic model of police–community relations*. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 57(2), 217-259.

Week 17, 12/14 | Final Exam

- No readings