

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Course Syllabus: CRIJ-2328, Police Systems & Practices  
Fall, 2023, Semester

## Contact Information

Instructor: Michael Ferguson, MS, MPO, INCI  
Phone: Skype Number: 903.686.0205 or mvferg  
Email: [mferguson@uttyler.edu](mailto:mferguson@uttyler.edu)  
Office Visits: by appointment only via Zoom, Skype, or FaceTime

Schedule: Tuesday evenings, 6:00p - 8:45p  
Dates: Location: Arts and Sciences Room 104  
Dates: 08/21/2023 - 12/09/2023

## Course Description

This course serves as an introductory examination the structures, functions, and operations of law enforcement agencies in the United States, with emphasis on municipal police departments. The course surveys police operations, staff functions, personnel policies, and current innovations utilized in delivering police services. It covers such topics as police discretion, ethics, police-community relations, and the future of policing in American society. This course serves as a prerequisite to CRIJ-4333, Advanced Police Systems and Practices.

## Course Rationale

This course will answer the “who, what, when, where, and why” questions you’ve always had about the way policing is done in the US. The course curriculum provides an historical, structural, and operational overview of the American policing system. Topics covered will help you to grasp the immense complexities of policing in modern America.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. *Describe* the types of police agencies and explain the role of police in America within the context of a democratic society.
2. *Describe* means and methods utilized to ensure police accountability.
3. *Explain* the historical development of policing.
4. *Describe* the selection process for police officers.
5. *Compare and contrast* organizational structures, policies, strategies and tactics employed to ensure police effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

## Required Textbook

Cox, S. M., Massey, D., Koski, C. M., & Fitch, B. D. (2020). *Introduction to policing* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.  
ISBN: 9781544339610

## **Course Administration**

### **UT-Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow **THIS** link.

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available **HERE**.

### **UT-Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quit-lines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit **THIS** page.

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or **HERE**. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Course Syllabus: CRIJ-2328, Police Systems & Practices  
Fall, 2023, Semester

repeats during their career at UT-Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid
- State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another two-year or four-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the six-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

## **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit **THIS PAGE** and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the **SAR webpage**, the SAR office located in University Center #3150, or call 903.566.7079.

## **Important COVID-19 Information**

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher-than-normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the **UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures website** to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call 903.566.7079 or email **saroffice@uttyler.edu**.

## **Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

## **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

## **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities (Rev. 01/2018)**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

## **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

## **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Course Syllabus: CRIJ-2328, Police Systems & Practices  
Fall, 2023, Semester

unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

## **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- A. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
1. copying from another student's test paper;
  2. using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
  3. failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
  4. possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
  5. using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an un-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  6. collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
  7. discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  8. divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  9. substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  10. paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an un-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an un-administered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  11. falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  12. taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  13. misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
Department of Criminal Justice  
Course Syllabus: CRIJ-2328, Police Systems & Practices  
Fall, 2023, Semester

- B. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- C. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- D. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

## **UT-Tyler Resources for Students**

- UT-Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT-Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021; this is the open-access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT-Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

## **Communications with Instructor**

If you need to ask me a question that you’re unable to take care of during the regular class session, please send me an e-mail **from your UT-T email account**. This assures me that the message is, in fact, coming from you. It also alerts me as to which course is involved. I am regular in my habit of checking email, so you should never have to wait more than a day or so for a response.

## **Student Evaluation**

### **Grading Policy**

- A: ≥90%
- B: 80%-89%
- C: 70%-79%
- D: 60%-69%
- F: <60%

### **Course Weighting**

- 25% Exam One
- 25% Exam Two
- 25% Exam Three
- 25% Final Exam
- 100% TOTAL

## **Important Note About Course Material:**

The material presented in this class covers concepts from the mundane to the contentious. It is imperative that all participants understand the importance of keeping discussions civil and appropriate. We will not have a class where individuals are belittled or berated because of a particular opinion on a topic. Ad hominem attacks are the refuge of those who are unable to discuss a position in a scholarly manner. Remember former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's take on this issue: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people." One of my favorite quotes on this topic is from Larry Winget. He wrote,

To College Students: You don't need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego. You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking. You need ideas that will offend you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad. This is necessary for growth and learning. So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up.

I'm not asking you to agree with one another; I'm asking you to be civil, thoughtful, and willing to listen. One of the primary ways you learn during your university education is by being exposed to multiple points of view and ideas other than your own. I encourage a spirited, lively, and scholarly discussion of the myriad topics we'll cover. I believe that groupthink is a horrible thing, so I encourage you to research the topic and present your ideas. Don't agree with others simply because it's the easy thing to do. Be yourself and be willing to stand up for your beliefs.

Having written the paragraphs above, though, I need to make sure you understand something very important: if you make an assertion of fact, you need to check your source of information and be able to cite the source(s). Just because something is on the Internet doesn't mean it's true. Where did you find your information? Is it a valid, scholarly source? Did the person have a political or personal agenda? Did he or she play fast and loose with the facts? In the words of President Ronald Reagan, "trust, but verify!"

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Fall, 2023, Semester

## **Class Schedule:**

(Subject to change by instructor)

08/22: Introduction, welcome to class, review syllabus; Chapter One, "Policing in the United States"

08/29: Chapter Two, "A Brief History of Police in the United States"

09/05: Chapter Three, "Police Organization and Administration"

09/12: **Exam One (Chapters One, Two, and Three)**

09/19: Chapter Four, "Recruitment and Selection of Police Officers"

09/26: Chapter Five, "Police Training and Education"

10/03: Chapter Six, "Police Work: Operations and Functions"

10/10: Chapter Seven, "Contemporary Strategies in Policing"

10/17: **Exam Two (Chapters Four, Five, Six, and Seven)**

10/24: Chapter Eight, "The Police Culture and Work Stress"

10/31: Chapter Nine, "Law, Court Decisions, and the Police ... and Happy Halloween!"

11/07: Chapter 11, "Police Misconduct and Accountability"

11/14: **Exam Three (Chapters Eight, Nine and Eleven)**

11/21: **No class - Thanksgiving break Enjoy your holiday!**

11/28: Chapter 12, "Policing in a Diverse Society"

12/05: **Final Exam**