

Syllabus
CRIJ 4333.001 – Contemporary Policing
08/25/2025 – 12/13/2025
Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alejandro Castillo

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Communication: Contact me at your convenience; we can arrange a call, zoom or in-person visit.

Class: Wednesday, 6pm – 8:45pm, Arts and Sciences building, room #104

Course Overview

This course will describe the historical development of policing within the United States but will extend beyond the community policing era into modern policing actions in a post-9/11 society. Students will be introduced to the theoretical foundations of modern policing practices and emphasis will be placed on describing how advances in policing technologies reconciles with community-based efforts in an attempt to ameliorate the problems associated with criminal behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes

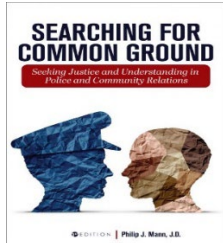
Through readings, discussions and other materials, we will pursue the following course objectives:

1. Synthesize the historical nature of police in terms of how it relates to police-community relationships.
2. Summarize how Peelian Principles of Policing are foundational for effective policing in a democratic society.
3. Discuss how the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution is instrumental for the police in their need to developing trust with their community.
4. Demonstrate proficiency with the APA documentation style (7th ed.).
5. Evaluate how public policies affect police practices.
6. Articulate how internal relationships with police administrators influence police officer behavior with the public.
7. Compose an academically minded paper surrounding police-community relations.

Textbooks

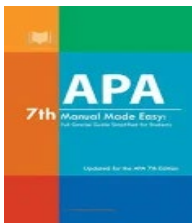
Mann, P. J. (2022). *Searching for common ground: Seeking justice and understanding in police and community relations*. Cognella Academic Publishing.

ISBN 978-1-7935-0650-4 (for the print book) or ISBN: 978-1-7935-0652-8 (for the e-book).



American Psychological Association- 7th edition

(This book is not mandatory but contains important information necessary for discussions and your term paper)



Assignments and weights/percentage values

Assignments	5%
Discussions	10%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Semester Paper	20%
References	5%
Outline	5%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

- A = 90% or greater
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = below 60%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams

No late assignments will be accepted. Please pay attention to all due dates. Unfortunately, unexpected events are part of life, please contact me as soon as possible and we will work together to extend an assignment.

Attendance Policy

Do your best to attend every class session. There will be important information being discussed in class that you will need to ensure your success in this course. It is important you read the reading assignments to have a firm understanding of all material because it will assist you in preparing for discussions, quizzes and exams.

UT Tyler does have a [Class Attendance policy](#) in the catalog.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Chapter Quizzes:

At the end of each weekly chapter, you will be required to complete a comprehension reading chapter quiz. These quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false. The purpose of each quiz is to encourage you to read the chapter. These quizzes will be due Sunday of that week by 11:59pm.

In Class Assessment (discussions):

You must be in attendance to receive credit for the assessments. Reading and being prepared is important for your success in this course and develops a positive discipline. Your overall course grade will also consist of in-class assessments intended to assess your learning and to enhance the learning environment. Please do your best to be in attendance, it's very easy to receive a high-grade completing this task, but it's just as easy to receive a low grade. Make sure you read the material and think about it before class. Each of you will be expected to be an active participant in the class discussions.

Discussion Post/Reply:

You will be required to complete online activities that correspond with the materials presented in the chapter/s for the week and will be provided with instructions for each activity. These entries are designed to allow you the opportunity to analyze the material through the use of critical thinking.

Post/Reply requirements: First, post an original answer to the discussion question. Second, you must reply/comment to at least one of your fellow classmate's posts, this response must also be detailed and complete. To receive full credit, you must complete both sections of the requirement, unless instructed otherwise. The discussion will be due Sunday of that week by 11:59pm.

Examinations:

There will be two (2) exams throughout this course, a midterm and final exam. The questions are straightforward and arise from your readings. All exams will be due by 11:59pm on the date assigned.

Semester Paper:

You will have a semester paper due near the end of the term, to be completed in APA format-7th edition. You will be working on this paper throughout the semester, do not wait until the weekend before the paper is due to begin working on it. There will be three parts required to be submitted: references, outline and final paper submission.

References: due Sunday, 09/28/2025, by 11:59pm

Outline: due Sunday, 10/26/2025, by 11:59pm

Final paper submission: due Sunday, 11/23/2025, by 11:59pm

Please view the module containing the references, outline and semester paper for complete details. A rubric has been provided for each section of the paper.

Student Expectations:

- The utilization of critical thinking.
- The respectful discussion of ideas.
- Read the required text and other relevant information provided throughout this course.
- Active participant in class based on knowledge gained through credible, relevant sources.
- The completion and submittal of all assignments before or by the due date.
- Access and stay current with Canvas.
- Check your email.

The following is provided in your course Canvas within the Syllabus Module:

- Resources to assist you in the course
- Resources available to UT Tyler Students
- University Policies and Information

Calendar of Topics, Readings and Due Dates (Tentative course schedule)

Week 1

08/25 – 08/31

- Self-Introduction Post
- Plagiarism Certificate
- Syllabus Quiz
- Read Pre-Face and Introduction of the textbook

Week 2

09/01 – 09/07

- Chapter 1- Police work is different: Public trust is easy to lose, hard to regain.
- Chapter 1- quiz

Week 3

09/08 – 09/14

- Chapter 2- The importance of positive police-citizen interactions
- Chapter 2- Quiz
- Discussion Post/Reply

Week 4

09/15 – 09/21

- Chapter 3- Cultivating a culture of law and justice: Constitutional values inform police and community
- Chapter 3- Quiz

Week 5

09/22 – 09/28

- References- due Sunday, 09/28/2025, by 11:59pm

Week 6

09/29 – 10/05

- Chapter 4- A social contract between police and community
- Chapter 4- Quiz

Week 7

10/06 – 10/12

- Chapter 5- Making Choices: Police Discretion and effective policing
- Chapter 5- Quiz
- Discussion Post

Week 8

10/13 – 10/19

- Midterm Exam

Week 9

10/20 – 10/26

- Chapter 6- General police powers to search and seize under the Fourth Amendment
- Chapter 6- Quiz
- Outline- due Sunday, 10/26/2025, by 11:59pm

Week 10

10/27 – 11/02

- Chapter 7- Use of force against citizens
- Chapter 7- Quiz
- Discussion Post/Reply

Week 11

11/03 – 11/09

- Chapter 8- Facing the legacy of racism, bias, and inequality with clarity, purpose, and action
- Chapter 8- Quiz

Week 12

11/10 – 11/16

- Chapter 9- Evaluating police strategies, tactics, and militarization: The importance of caution
- Chapter 9- Quiz

Week 13

11/17 – 11/23

- Semester Paper- due Sunday, 11/23/2025, by 11:59pm

Week 14**11/24 – 11/30**

- No class meeting- Thanksgiving break- Enjoy your time and be safe.

Week 15**12/01 – 12/07**

- Chapter 10- Procedural justice, character, professionalism, and accountability contribute to community trust
- Chapter 10- Quiz

Week 16**12/08 – 12/11**

- Final Exam