

Syllabus
CRIJ 4333.001 – Contemporary Policing
Fall 2026
08/24/2026 – 12/12/2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alejandro Castillo

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

Office hours: Please reach out anytime

Class: Thursday, 6pm – 8:45pm, W.T. Brookshire Hall, room # 236

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

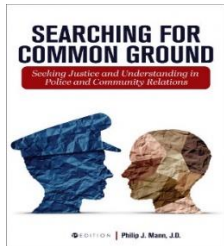
Through readings, discussions and other materials, we will pursue the following course objectives:

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

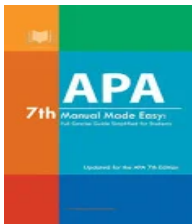
Mann, P. J. (2022). *Searching for common ground: Seeking justice and understanding in police and community relations*. Cognella Academic Publishing.

ISBN 978-1-7935-0650-4 (hardcopy) or ISBN: 978-1-7935-0652-8 (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	15%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Semester Paper	20%
Outline	5%
References	<u>5%</u>
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. 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 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.

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Graded Course Requirements Information

Quizzes

At the end of each 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 by the posted date/time.

Class Assessment

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 participate and complete all assignments. Make sure you read the material and think about it before class. Each of you will be expected to be an active participant in all assignments.

Discussions

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 in the format indicated. Second, you must respond/comment to a classmate/s post, 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 by the posted date/time.

Exams

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 the posted date/time.

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: outline, references and final paper submission.

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

Class Schedule

(subject to change)

Week 1

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

Week 2

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

Week 3

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

Week 4

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

Week 5

- Outline Due

Week 6

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

Week 7

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

Week 8

- Midterm Exam

Week 9

- Chapter 6- General police powers to search and seize under the Fourth Amendment
- Chapter 6- Quiz
- References Due

Week 10

- Chapter 7- Use of force against citizens
- Chapter 7- Quiz
- Discussion

Week 11

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

Week 12

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

Week 13

- Semester Paper Due

Week 14

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

Week 15

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

Week 16

- Final Exam