

## **Syllabus**

CRIJ 4333.001 - Contemporary Policing (Fall 2023)  
8/21/2023 through 12/09/2023

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Alejandro (Alex) Castillo

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Preferred form of communication: Canvas, email, phone, in person.

I am available throughout the week, do not hesitate to send me a message and we can arrange an in-person visit or via Zoom.

Office hours: please reach out to me anytime

Class location: College of Arts and Sciences building, room 104

Class schedule: Face to face, Wednesday evening: 6:00pm to 8:45pm

### **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.

### Course Focus

Overall “Big Question” we will be focused on all semester:

How can the criminal justice system achieve an acceptable standard of justice in the United States?

Main concepts/questions that I will keep this course content revolving around:

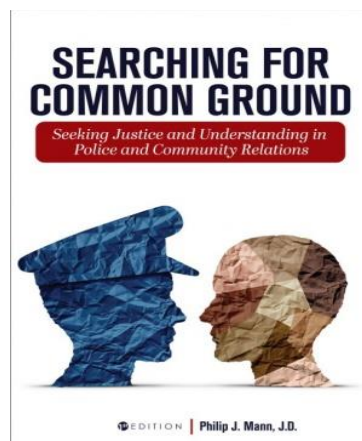
1. How have the police evolved and how does their evolution relate to the overall big course question?
2. How must police agencies/officers think to effectively engage in 21st Century policing?
3. What are the challenges police agencies/officers confront daily that impinge their ability to effectively engage in constitutional policing from a theoretical perspective?
4. If we know the challenges, how can police agencies overcome the challenges to be successful?

### Required Textbooks and Readings

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 ebook).

APA 7th edition book



## Assignments and weights/percentage values

1. Chapter Assessments (Quizzes)	15%
2. In Class Assessments (discussions)	10%
3. Midterm Exam	15%
4. Semester Paper	40%
a. Reference Page	5%
b. Outline	5%
c. Draft	10%
d. Final Paper	20%
5. Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	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

Unfortunately, illnesses, deaths in the family, or other traumatic events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 24 hours of the event (or as soon as possible) **and** provide documentation, I will be happy to give you a make-up quiz or extend an assignment deadline.

The general rule is I will not accept any late assignments. Please pay particular attention to the due dates for each assignment.

## **Attendance Policy**

You are expected 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. So, unless you are ill or have a family situation that precludes your attendance (but please let me know if you will not be in class), you are expected to be in class. It is important you read the reading assignments prior to class and arrive ready to discuss the material. Again, I recognize extenuating circumstances arise that can make it difficult to attend each and every class session. In other words, life happens! If a serious family emergency occurs, please let me know as soon as the event occurs or within 24 hours.

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

## **Graded Course Requirements Information**

### **Chapter Assessments (Quizzes):**

Prior to us discussing each chapter you will be required to complete a comprehension reading chapter quiz. These quizzes are only 10 questions and you will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. You can retake each quiz (two attempts and I will record the highest score). The quizzes will all be multiple choice and/or T/F. The purpose of each quiz is to encourage you to read the chapter. The book selected for this course has brief chapters, so time should not hinder your ability to complete the readings each week. These quizzes are due by 10am on their due date.

### **In-Class Assessments (discussions):**

There will be a myriad of assessments throughout the semester. You must be in attendance to receive credit for the assessments. (Missing one or two will not severely impact your grade in a negative fashion but can be the difference between two grades at the end of the semester—thus, I strongly encourage you to attend class.) These assessments will be comprised of a variety of technics to enhance your learning through classroom discussion—these can occur at any point in the class and are intended to assess your learning and to enhance the learning environment. Thus, make sure you read the material and think about it before class because on some days I may have you reflect upon how an assigned reading applies to a larger question on a contemporary policing issue that is aligned with the topic we are covering. Each of you will be expected to be an active participant in the class discussions. Education research has suggested that the more engaged and active a student is in the learning process, the more learning will occur.

**Examinations:**

There are two examinations in this course, a midterm and a final. The final examination is a comprehensive assessment so there will be questions on it that covers material that you were assessed on the midterm. The questions are straightforward and arise from our classroom discussions. Thus, it is very important you attend every class session.

**Semester Paper:**

We will have a semester paper with three scaffolding assignments in addition to the final paper. Yes, you will be working on this paper throughout the semester, so you cannot wait until the weekend before the paper is due to begin working on it. The paper will be for you to: **Discuss police-community relations: how we arrived at this point and recommendations that will enhance the relationship in communities, along with enhancing the trust all segments of society have toward the police.** (The purpose of the scaffolding assignments is to help you present a solid, well written final paper—which should result in a better score.) A rubric has been provided for each section of the paper; it can be found under “Rubrics”. A great resource for you to develop an outstanding paper is for you to schedule sessions with the Writing Center...I may even provide you extra credit for using this resource.

**References (APA): due September 15 by 12pm (noon)**

The first scaffolding assignment will require you to locate five peer-reviewed sources and create a “References” page that you will use in your paper. The sources and references must comport to the APA (7<sup>th</sup>) edition documentation style.

**Outline: due September 29 by 12pm (noon)**

The second scaffolding assignment related to your paper will be for you to develop and submit an outline you will use to write your paper.

**Draft: Due October 27 by 12pm (noon)**

The third scaffolding assignment related to your paper will be a complete draft of the paper. The requirements will be to submit an APA compliant paper that includes:

1. Title page
2. Eight full pages of written text
3. At least five peer-reviewed sources that are paraphrased in the text (in APA format)
4. Double space
5. Times New Roman with 12 pt font
6. Reference page with all your sources you cited in the text.

### **Final Paper: Due on November 17 by 12pm (noon)**

The final paper will be submitted where you incorporate the suggestions provided to you in the draft. The final paper should be a polished paper where you have dedicated your time and attention to presenting your best work. If you are not a strong writer, you should have visited the writing center throughout the semester. The requirements will be to submit an APA compliant paper that incorporates the draft requirements.

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

Week 1, August 21 – 25

Class date: Wednesday, 08/23/2023

- "Introduction"
- Syllabus
- Reference material: Read the Preface and Introduction in the textbook
- Learning Activities: Introduction to the course

Week 2, August 28 - September 1

Class date: Wednesday, 08/30/2023

- **Chapter 1 quiz due prior to 10am on August 30**
- "Historical Context"
- Reference material: Chapter 1
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion

\*\*\*\*\*September 1 is Census Day\*\*\*\*\*

Week 3, September 4 - 8

Class date: Wednesday, 09/06/2023

- September 4 – University is closed for Labor Day Holiday
- **Chapter 2 quiz due prior to 10am on September 6**
- Special Guest Speaker: Sgt. Kevin Mobley - Tyler Police Department
- "Positive Interactions"
- Reference material: Chapter 2
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class Discussion

Week 4, September 11 – 15

Class date: Wednesday, 09/13/2023

- **Chapter 3 quiz due prior to 10am on September 13**
- “Culture is Important”
- Reference material: Chapter 3
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class Discussion
- **List of References you will use for your paper, in APA format: due September 15, uploaded in Canvas by 12pm (noon)**

Week 5, September 18 – 22

Class date: Wednesday, 09/20/2023

- **Chapter 4 quiz due prior to 10am on September 20**
- “The Social Contract”
- Reference material: Chapter 4
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion

Week 6, September 25 – 29

Class date: Wednesday, 09/27/2023

- **Chapter 5 quiz due prior to 10am on September 27**
- “Discretion”
- Reference material: Chapter 5
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion, prepare for Midterm Exam
- **Outline for your paper: due September 29, uploaded in Canvas by 12pm (noon)**

Week 7, October 2 – 6

Class date: Wednesday, 10/04/2023 = NO CLASS meeting

- **Midterm Examination- online, 1 week to complete**
- Reference material: Study-up

Week 8, October 9 – 13

Class date: Wednesday, 10/11/2023

- **Chapter 6 quiz due prior to 10am on October 11**
- “Police Overreach?”
- Reference material: Chapter 6
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion

Week 9, October 16 – 20

Class date: Wednesday, 10/18/2023

- **Chapter 7 quiz due prior to 10am on October 18**
- “Use of Force”
- Reference material: Chapter 7
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion, consultation for the paper

Week 10, October 23 – 27

Class date: Wednesday, 10/25/2023 = NO CLASS meeting

- Continue writing your paper
- Reference material: Sources and Outline
- Learning Activities: self-discipline
- **Complete draft of your paper: due October 27, uploaded in Canvas by 12pm (noon)**

Week 11, October 30 – November 3

Class date: Wednesday, 11/01/2023

- **Chapter 8 quiz due prior to 10am on November 1**
- “Thinking with a Purpose”
- Reference material: Chapter 8
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion

\*\*\*\*\*October 30 is last day to withdraw from one or more classes \*\*\*\*\*

Week 12, November 6 – 10

Class date: Wednesday, 11/08/2023

- **Chapter 9 quiz due prior to 10am on November 8**
- Special Guest Speaker: Lt. Kevin Freeman - Longview Police Department
- “Evaluating Police Practices”
- Reference material: Chapter 9
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion

Week 13, November 13 – 17

Class date: Wednesday, 11/15/2023 = NO CLASS meeting

- “Finishing Touches on Final Paper”
- Reference material: References, Outline, Draft
- Learning Activities: Consultation for the paper
- **Completed, semester paper: due November 17, uploaded in Canvas by 12pm (noon)**

**November 20 – 24, University Closed for Thanksgiving holidays**



Week 14, November 27 – December 1

Class date: Wednesday, 11/29/2023

- **Chapter 10 quiz due prior to 10am on November 29**
- “Democratic Policing”
- Reference material: Chapter 10
- Learning Activities: Lecture and class discussion, prepare for Final Exam

Week 15, December 4 – 8

Class date: Wednesday, 12/06/2023 = NO CLASS meeting this week

- “You made it!” (finals week)
- **Final Exam**
- Reference material: All learning since the beginning of the semester