



Course Syllabus

CJ 201 – Policing & Law Enforcement, 3 hours

Spring 2018

Instructor: Doug Whitten, J.D.
Adjunct Professor

Class Times: Monday, 7:20pm to 10pm

Office Hours: Before & After Class

Location: SS 312

Office: Please email with any questions.

Email Address: douglas.whitten@tamcu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials:

Required Textbook: Peak, Kenneth J., "Policing America: Challenges and Best Practices," 8th edition, Publisher: Pearson (ISBN 10: 0-13-349565-5). You may contact the university book store in Commerce at 903/886-5830, or buy it on-line.

Course Description:

The course focuses on the role police and police organizations play in the criminal justice system and in the larger society. The course will examine the historical development of police and variation between early types of policing systems. Current issues such as the changing nature of police work, recent research, police discretion and misconduct, and different types of policing strategies will also be explored. Note this is a web enhanced class meaning it is both online and classroom.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. The student will examine the history and nature of policing.
2. The student will explore the principals, goals, and challenges of policing.

3. The student will study the current nature of policing to include current research.
4. The student will learn the roles, strategies, and tactics used by law enforcement in the U.S.
5. The student will develop critical thinking skills.
6. The student will be exposed to different career opportunities that exist within the field.
7. The student will become familiar with the physical and psychological dangers that law enforcement officers face.
8. The students will learn to see police officers and investigators, as instruments of justice who can seek truth, promote equality, and serve justice.
9. The instructor will attempt to convey the importance of common sense and good judgment in law enforcement.

Technology Requirements:

The following hardware and software are necessary in order to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows based operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firebox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

Access and Navigation:

This course will be enhanced using eCollege, the learning Management System used by Texas A&M University – Commerce. To log in to the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>

You will need your CWID and password, to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903/468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu. Once you log in to eCollege, click on “My Courses” and select CJ 301-Criminal Investigation.

Please note that this course is taught as a combination of face-to-face lectures and online instruction; and as such, many aspects of the course (Including discussions / comments / exams, etc.) may be turned in or completed through eCollege. Your grades will also be available in eCollege.

After logging in to the course, students will notice that the weekly / unit content area is located on the left navigation bar. These weekly / unit content areas are identified as Week 1, Week 2, etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule located in the syllabus.).

Students should access course materials by clicking on the proper weekly / unit content area. Students should read the weekly overview that contains information about what is to be covered in class.

Students should also click on the Lecture link and take the time to review / read any material / presentations, I have posted.

Students will complete and submit any on-line assignments by clicking on the Assignments link that will be visible if an assignment is scheduled for that week. Students should be sure to submit any assignments according to the established instructions and to submit any assignments into the properly named / numbered drop box. Assignments are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.

Students will complete assigned exams by clicking on the Exam link that will be visible, if an exam is scheduled for that week. Exams are answered and grades are calculated within the eCollege system.

Communication and Support:

Interaction with the instructor – My primary form of communication with the class will be through announcements in class, eCollege, and e-mail. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students via announcements and your official University e-mail address available to me through MyLeo. It will be your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly.

Students who wish to discuss an issue with me personally should do so through e-mail or after class.

Students who e-mail me can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) within 24 hours Monday – Thursday. Students who e-mail me during holidays or over the weekend, i.e. Friday-Sunday, can expect a reply (at MY earliest convenience) on the next regularly scheduled business day.

eCollege Student Technical Support – Texas A&M University Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on ‘Live Support’ on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to drop box, How to post to discussions, etc...).

For assistance with the library: To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the library's website directly: <http://www.tamuc.edu/library> not from eCollege.

Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege: Should students encounter eCollege – based problems while submitting assignments / discussions / comments / exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed.

Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511.

Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number.

Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.

At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you.

PLEASE NOTE: Personal computer / access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the helpdesk. I strongly suggest you check for compatibility of your browser BEFORE the course begins and take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform. ONLY eCollege based problems are legitimate.

Course Requirements:

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments - This course consists of a series of reading assignments and lectures. To a limited extent the Socratic Method will be employed. Students will be expected to participate and answer questions in class. There will be in class activities designed to illustrate the concepts covered during lectures and occasional skill building exercises. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, and readings.

Due to the technical nature of the materials being presented, it is highly recommended that the student take notes over the readings, class lectures, discussions, videos and assignment activities. **Attendance at all classes is required!**

Grading – There will be (3) exams during the course of the semester. They will be worth 100 points each. They will contain a combination of multiple choice, true / false, short answer and essay questions. Each will be comprehensive and the student will be responsible for all

previously covered material, as well as, for all new material. The course will conclude with a comprehensive final exam that will also be worth 100 points.

Extra Credit – Any student can earn, up to 40, extra credit points by preparing a 5 to 7 page report on police “use of force.” The report should be typed, double spaced, with 1” margins all around, in font 10 to 12. In this report, the student should, explain what the phrase “use of force” means in the law enforcement context. Then, explain the standard used by the courts to determine whether or not law enforcement “use of force” is or is not justified. Next, explain the phrase “excessive force,” as it relates to the previously described standard, and distinguish between the “use of excessive force” and the “excessive use of force.” They are not the same. Additionally, the student should compare and contrast the traditional “force continuum” approach used to train law enforcement personnel with the new “dynamic resistance response model” (DRRM) being advocated by the FBI. For full credit, provide examples by applying each model to a hypothetical fact pattern. Finally, discuss the potential legal and professional consequences faced by law enforcement officers when they “use excessive force.” The grading rubric is as follows:

- The student may earn up to 10 points for spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and organization;
- The student may earn an additional 10 points by accurately following the directions provided above in the preparation of their report;
- Finally, the student may earn another 10 points based on the organization, thoroughness, and completeness of their report. To illustrate, a report that follows the above instructions studiously, but addresses each element of the assignment individually, as a stand-alone task, is worth significantly less than, a comprehensive integrated report that demonstrates a detailed and thorough understanding of the various relevant definitions and standards associated with police “use of force.”
- **Note:** Use of force is covered in the required textbook. Further, research material is available at the university library (physical and / or online). Finally, information is available at the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) website.
- **In class exercises:** There will be 10 additional extra credit points available for acceptable completion of two in class exercises. Note, the exercises will be given when it is appropriate based on the progress of the class. As a result, I cannot tell you in advance when this will happen, if you are absent on the day of the extra credit assignment you will simply miss the opportunity for this extra credit work and there will be no makeup!!!

The final grade in the course will be calculated as follows: Each of the exams during the semester will be worth 100 points. The final exam will also be worth 100 points. As a result:

A = 360 to 440 points
B = 320 to 359 points
C = 280 to 319 points
D = 240 to 279 points
F = 239 points and below

Note: Extra credit points obtained by completing the report and/or the in class assignments will be added directly to the cumulative total for the course. Hence the use of the term extra credit, as a result, a student who obtains 320 points over the course of the 4 exams could theoretically improve their grade to an A by obtaining all 40 extra credit points.

Course and University Procedures / Policies:

Attendance Policy – This course meets on Mondays at 4:30pm, according to the University schedule, it is the student's responsibility to attend the course meetings and complete any assignments, activities, or exams as outlined in the syllabus.

Exams, Guest Speakers, Practicals, and Assignments – There may be guest speaker days and attendance is mandatory! You will be tested over the content covered on guest speaker days. There are NO MAKE-UPS for missing a guest speaker or in class exercises!

Academic Dishonesty:

The University will strictly enforce policies regarding academic dishonesty. If you are found in violation of these policies, you will be reported to both the Department Head, and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These administrators may impose penalties, separate from my actions.

Penalties for academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade, failing the course, and/or dismissal from the university.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following acts:

Cheating - Copying another's work, using unauthorized materials during assignments or exams, Presenting the work of another as your own, etc.

Plagiarism - Failure to site the work of another in your own submissions, presenting someone else's work as your own, etc.

Student Behavior:

As stated in the student handbook: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.) **Class rules regarding electronic devices:** iPods are not allowed during class meetings. Cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices should be set to silent or turned off. No texting during class meetings. If you receive an emergency call, please remove yourself from the class and I will see you at the next class meeting. No cell phones or other electronic devices should be visible or checked during class, without the expressed permission of the instructor. This means you take notes the traditional way ... with paper and pen / pencil.

Please take care of restroom activities prior to class, however, if you must go during class, please make as little disruption as possible. All efforts should be made to keep any and all class interruptions at a minimum, out of respect for your fellow students. At my discretion, you may be asked to leave for any activities deemed distractive to the class.

Make-up Work / Drop Policy:

I will not discuss missed work or requests for make-up work in-class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course by the appropriate dates, according to the university calendar.

University Specific Procedures:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University –Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone 903/886-5150 or 903/886-5835

Fax 903/468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer).

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1!

Course Outline/Calendar:

| <u>Week #:</u> | <u>Class Date:</u> | <u>Weekly Content Items /Activities:</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Week 1: | 01/22 | Introduction & Ch. 1 – History of Policing in the United States |
| Week 2: | 01/29 | Ch. 2 – Preparing for the Street |
| Week 3: | 02/05 | Ch. 3 – On Patrol |
| Week 4: | 02/12 | Ch. 4 – Community Oriented |
| Week 5: | 02/19 | Exam One – Begin Ch. 5 – Criminal Investigations |
| Week 6: | 02/26 | Ch. 6 – Personnel Issues & Practices |
| Week 7: | 03/05 | Ch. 7 – The Rule of Law |
| Week 8: | 03/12 | Spring Break |
| Week 9: | 03/19 | Exam Two – Begin Ch. 8 – Accountability |
| Week 10: | 03/26 | Ch. 9 – Civil Liability |
| Week 11: | 04/02 | Ch. 10 – Federal & State Agencies |
| Week 12: | 04/09 | Ch. 11 – Municipal & County Agencies |
| Week 13: | 04/16 | Exam Three – Begin Ch. 12 – Pursuing Criminal Syndicates |
| Week 14: | 04/23 | Ch. 13 – Addressing People Problems - Extra credit report is due!!! |
| Week 15: | 04/30 | Ch. 14 – Technology Review |
| Week 16: | 05/07 | Final Exam - Comprehensive |

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule as noted above. However, circumstances may require changes to the schedule. In that case, changes will be announced via university e-mail, in-class, or on eCollege. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary, depending on the progress of the class, as well as, the availability of guest speakers. Remember the extra credit report on “the use of force” is by due on or before MONDAY April 24th!