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SOCI 362.01: Sociology of Law Enforcement

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Sociology of Law Enforcement
Sociology 362
M, W, F 9:10 AM - 10:00 AM
Phyllis J. Washington School of Education - ED 214
Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR:

Jake Coolidge
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PRECEPTORS

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course offers a sociological analysis of American law enforcement. We will study the structure, role, and processes of law enforcement in modern societies. Law enforcement is viewed as a formal, institutional structure of social control that is a product of historical development as well as cultural, social, and political influences. Thus, we will examine how and why policing developed as a mechanism of social control and the social and cultural forces that influence the way in which the police perform their role.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, you will:

- Understand the history of American Law Enforcement and why it developed as a formal means of social control.
- Be aware of the strategies and tactics that are used by the police to maintain and manage their role(s) in society.
- Become familiar with the internal issues that influence the attitudes and opinions of the police.
- Learn about the issues that the police face in the day-to-day interactions that they have with the public and how these are changing in contemporary society.
- Think critically about the role and actions of law enforcement and contemporary issues facing law enforcement and society.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Cox, Steven M., William P. McCamey, and Gene L. Scaramella. 2014. *Introduction to Policing*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Assigned Reading:

You should come to class having read the assigned readings. This will allow you to more fully understand and engage in the material presented in class. The reading is subject to change but I will always give advanced notice of the expected reading for the following class.

2. Attendance/Participation:

This course is not intended to be entirely lecture based. As a 300-level Sociology course, I expect the learning to be done collaboratively through a Professor-driven discussion about law enforcement. Given that most of the students in the course are approaching graduation in either sociology or a related field, I expect thoughtful contributions about the reading and concepts from all students. I reserve the right to reduce or increase a student's grade by a full letter grade based on their participation throughout the semester. An attendance sheet will be circulated and students are expected to attend. A total of 100 points will be given for attendance and participation combined. If you attend class regularly and contribute to class discussion consistently, you will receive all 100 points.

3. Discussion Groups:

Four class sessions will be devoted to group discussion on a specific reading assignment. Group discussion sessions are designed to allow you to more thoroughly understand the assigned readings and to integrate this insight into class lectures and other readings. I will provide you with a series of questions for group discussion. One person will be responsible for taking notes on the discussion. A type written (12 point font, preferably WORD) document will be submitted via email to the teaching assistant listed above no later than the end of class on the following Monday after the discussion group. You will be given 25 points for actively participating in each discussion. If the notes from the discussion reflect inadequate participation, you will be graded accordingly. If you miss a discussion group you will not earn these points.

4. Exams:

There are four non-cumulative exams. The exams cover specific chapters from the text, assigned readings, related class lectures and discussions. They will be composed of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. The essay questions will require full paragraph responses with complete sentences. Spelling, grammar, and writing style will be considered in scoring the essay responses. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

GRADES:

Your grade will be based upon the total number of points earned throughout the semester. There are 600 total possible points: 100 points for attendance and participation, 100 points from the discussion groups, and 400 points from the exams. Grades will be calculated on a straight percentage basis, dividing the number of points earned by the total number of points possible. Grades will be assigned according to the following cut-off:

Letter Grade	Grade Percent
A	90-100 percent
B	80-89 percent
C	70-79 percent
D	60-69 percent
F	59 percent or below

CLASS POLICIES:

Each of the exams must be taken at the place and time that they are scheduled. Exceptions will be made only for documented medical or family problems. Changes in the reading and exam schedule may occasionally be made. Advance notice of these changes will be made during class time. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations that are needed for the course. Late notification may result in the requested accommodations to be unavailable.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY (UM OFFICIAL STATEMENT):

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university. All students must be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#). The code is available for review online at <http://www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

FINAL NOTE:

Feel free to come and see me if you need to discuss the course material. The process will work best if we are able to openly discuss issues. I will check and respond to emails pertaining to the course. Students should make every effort to see me during office hours. I will remain responsive to issues and concerns that may arise and will meet by appointment if needed. Also, because I am also a law student, there may be obligations that arise that cause me to change or cancel a class or two. I appreciate your patience and flexibility in this process. I look forward to working with all of you.