

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
COURSE # 2367.02 Police Systems
Fall 2017

“Police – here to save your ass, not kiss it”

~Unknown

PROFESSOR: David B. Houston
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CLASS HOURS: T/TH - 11:00am – 12:20pm
CLASSROOM: C-104
OFFICE HOURS: T/TH - 8:00 am – 9:00 am

TEXTBOOK(S): Police in America, Brandl, Steven G., ISBN : 978-1-48-337913-5,
Sage Publishing, 2018

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Philosophy and history of law enforcement; limitations imposed on law enforcement in a democratic society in accordance with the Constitution; agencies of law enforcement; role and place of law enforcement in the total justice process. Credit 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the good, bad and ugly issues facing law enforcement
2. To discuss practical, managerial and moral dilemmas in criminal justice
3. To evaluate current thought, practice and research of current police practices
4. To discuss, defend and/or criticize current issues in criminal justice.
5. To look ahead at the future of policing and the issues that either trail, parallel or move ahead of law enforcement.
6. To seek answers to those gnawing questions that somehow never gets answered.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

1. Attendance Policy: Per university policy regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Attendance is defined as attending the entire class. I do not acknowledge any type of absence, excused or otherwise. Since attendance is an expectation, extra credit will not be given for attending nor will I penalize you for not attending. If the classroom door is closed, there is no further admittance. No exceptions.

2. Academic Dishonesty Policy: Students are expected to do their own work. Under no circumstances will academic dishonesty be tolerated. Any student caught violating the student honor code will lose all designated points for that requirement. A second infraction will result in an F for the course and referral to the dean for possible further disciplinary action. All intellectual dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating, is strictly forbidden.

Simple plagiarism is occasionally using words or ideas from outside sources without documenting the sources. As a penalty, the professor may require the work to be resubmitted with documentation and/or require the student to work on documentation at the library.

Aggravated plagiarism is purchasing a paper, having another person write a paper, or extensive copying of words or ideas from outside sources without documentation. Penalties range from receiving a zero for the assignment to receiving a grade of F for the course. Penalty for an aggravated plagiarism infraction will be at the discretion of the professor.

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USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS
AND FACILITIES: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

3. Telephones and similar devices have become increasingly a part of everyday life. In the academic classroom, however, during class these devices can be a serious distraction and during tests they can be a serious problem. The technology is constantly changing and evolving. So, the present policy does not specify particular devices or device types. Rather, the policy applies to any device that performs the function of a telephone or text message. The use by students of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text message during class-time is prohibited if deemed disruptive by the instructor to the conduct of the class. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with the instructor's policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course. Any use of a telephone or text message or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, except when expressly permitted by the instructor. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.
4. There will be two exams; a midterm and a final. The final will not be cumulative. (see class schedule below). These exams are designed to help improve student understanding of the material. Exams are based on class lecture. PowerPoint may not be used in this class therefore, notetaking is paramount. Each exam is worth 100 points.
5. Each student will write four (4) 500-word papers on a topic (to be assigned) throughout the semester. You will be graded in the following four areas:
 - Clarity – Is your paper easy to read? Do I have to re-read sentences to understand what they mean?

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- Concise (but complete) – Don't try to fill your paper with unnecessary words to hit the magic 1,000 word-count.
 - Coherent – Use proper, grown-up academic words. Colloquialisms have no place in research or college papers. Words like 'dude', 'awesome' and 'hooters' are good for dorm rooms but not classrooms. Do not rely on spell check as your final proofreading source. Omitting the letter 'l' from public changes the meaning of the entire sentence.
 - Competent - Do you know what you are writing about? Is your writing accurate? Do your outside sources coincide or conflict with the text material and are your outside sources academic in nature?
- Papers are due via Blackboard no later than the dates listed on the class calendar in this syllabus. Each paper is worth 25 points. Late papers will not be accepted.

MAKE-UP EXAM:

The midterm may be made up for any reason. The make-up exam may be both objective and subjective. Make up day is Tuesday, November 28, 2017. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class on October 17 and 19. You **MUST** make an election on this list if you wish to take the make-up exam. This is necessary so that an alternate exam may be designed. If you elect to take a make-up exam that will be your grade, even if it is lower than the original exam. The final may not be made up.

COMMUNICATION

Generally, I do not answer emails. I prefer face-to-face meetings as they are typically more productive and effective than emails. To that end, you may contact me during my office hours or make an appointment for other times. Please be advised, appointment times are very limited.

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GRADING:

GRADING SUMMARY		GRADING CRITERIA	
Midterm	100	A	300 - 264
Papers @25 pts each	100	B	263 - 234
Final	100	C	233 - 204
		D	203 - 174
		F	Below 174
Total Points	300		

EXTRA CREDIT

Per the SHSU website, Academic Community Engagement (ACE) is a teaching method that combines community engagement with academic instruction. The ACE initiative allows students to use the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom to make a difference and improve life in our community by understanding their roles as community members. To qualify for this extra credit you must:

- Volunteer at a non-profit institution or non-profit business for a minimum of 8 hours between August 23, 2017 and November 29, 2017.
- Write a 500-word reflection paper documenting where you volunteered, your duties, and what you learned from your volunteering experience.
- Complete all paperwork related to the project
- Participation is voluntary; however, if you successfully complete all requirements, 15 points will be added to your semester grade. Partial credit will not be given.
- Extra Credit is due by the beginning of class, Monday, April 25, 2016 but may be turned in any time prior to this date. Because extra credit may be turned in at any time throughout the semester, late extra credit will not be accepted.

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OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS

DATE	TOPIC
August 24- September 7	Foundations for the Study of the Police
August 31	Paper #1 Due
September 12 – October 3	Police Work
September 14	Paper #2 Due
October 5	Midterm
October 10 – October 12	Class Without Walls
October 12	Paper #3 Due
October 17 – October 31	The Hazards of Police Work
November 2 – November 21	Police Strategies & the Future of Police Work
November 2	Paper #4 Due
November 28	Midterm Make Up Exam
November 30	Extra Credit Due
December 7 – 12 – 2pm	Final Exam

Calendar may be changed at the discretion of the professor.