

**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY**  
**COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Sam Houston State University**  
**Huntsville, TX 77341-2296**  
**FALL 2017: ONLINE**

**CRIJ 2367-03 Police Systems and Practices**

**Instructor: Terry Ross**  
**Classroom: Online**  
**Email: txr006@[shsu.edu](mailto:txr006@shsu.edu)**  
**Semester/Year: Fall, 2017**

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Class Hours: Online**  
**Phone: 281-935-1303**

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course on the role and function of the police in the criminal justice system and the broader society. Emphasis is placed on the development of policing and the roles of the police in contemporary America. Course content will emphasize issues and conflicts inherent in policing a democratic society. As a survey course, it examines the history of the police and the social values and value conflicts that underlay contemporary law enforcement. Moreover, the course includes an examination of important issues and topics.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be familiar with both the practical and philosophical components of the American police force.

**Objectives:**

This course has three primary objectives:

- Learn fundamental principles and theories of American police,
- Gain the factual knowledge of the operations and practices of the police, and
- Know the impact of the importance of external environment on the police.

**Readings:**

Required Textbook: *Police in America: An Introduction*. (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) By Samuel Walker & Charles Katz, 2013, McGraw Hill.

**Academic Honesty:** All students at this University are expected to engage in academic pursuits on their own with complete honesty and integrity. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any

phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

**Disability Student Policy:** [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html)

**Services for Disabled Students:** <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy:**

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.htm#holyday>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY:**

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

**Use of Cell & Smart Phones, PDA's & Similar Devices:** Engaging in voice communication using a cell phone or similar communication device during class is prohibited. Leaving the classroom to receive a phone call is prohibited, except with prior approval of the instructor for urgent communications. Device sound alerts should be turned off during class. Engaging in text communication during class is discouraged, although non-disruptive occasional use is permitted. Persistent or extended texting is, however, not allowed. Per University policy communication using any electronic device during an in-class examination is prohibited.

**Withdrawals:** Students wishing to withdraw are cautioned to follow formal procedures outlined by the University. Consult the Sam Houston State University Undergraduate Catalog, 200112013 for official policies under "tuition and fees refund policy" and "dropping courses."

**Incompletes:** Except for the gravest of emergencies, a grade of "incomplete" will not be allowed for this course. Any missing grades, whether for examination or assignments, will be assumed to be zeros and will be averaged as such.

**Reading Assignments:** Each student is expected to have completed the reading assignments before each class session. Reading the assignments before each class session will enhance the student's understanding of the lectures.

**Grading Scale:**

Percentage	Letter Grade
360 - 400	A
320 – 359	B
280 - 319	C
240 - 279	D
Below 240	F

**Evaluation:**

Grades for this course will be comprised of three exams (300 points) and the completion of 10 assignments and posted in the discussion section (10 points each assignment with a total of 100 points). The assignment must be submitted by 11:59:00pm (Central Time) on Wednesdays. Students are not required to participate in the discussion group but strongly encouraged to share your thoughts with your peers or ask questions about how to work on the assignments. When submitting the assignments in the discussion group section, you are able to read the assignments of other students.

Exams cover both reading assignments and lecture material. Exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions (2 points each). This is an open-book exam, and the time of the first two exams is limited to **75** minutes and the time of the final exam is **90** minutes. The final exam is not comprehensive. The assignment is based on the weekly topic and usually involved with a web search of an issue in policing or an essay after watching a video. If you need additional help in the completion of the assignment, you can either send an email to me or my teaching assistant. At the same time, you can post your question on the discussion board so other students are able to share their thoughts with you. Students may be assigned into several groups, depending on the number of enrollment in the class.

**Course Outline (weekly)**

Week	Dates	Topic
1	8/25-9/06	Course Introduction & Chapter 1 – Police & Society <i>Assignment #1. Police strength and violent crime rates (Due date: Wednesday, 9/06 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
2.	8/25-9/06	Chapter 2 – History of American Police <i>Assignment #2. August Vollmer, the father of modern policing (Due date: Wednesday, 9/06 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>

3	9/06-9/13	Chapter 3 - The Contemporary Law Enforcement Industry
4	9/13-9/20	Chapter 4 – Police Organization <i>Assignment #3. “Fighting Terrorism in New York City” (CBS 60 minutes featured story) (Due date: Wednesday, 9/20 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
5	9/20-9/27	Chapter 5 – Police Officers I: Entering Police Work <b>FIRST EXAM (must be taken by 11:59:00pm, Central Time, Wednesday, September 27th)</b>
6	9/27-10/04	Chapter 6 – Police Officers II: The Job <i>Assignment #4. Beyond the blue: Life as a female police officer (Due date: Wednesday, October, 4th by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
7	10/04-10/11	Chapter 7 – Patrol: The Backbone of Policing <i>Assignment #5: Peter Jennings Reporting: LAPD (Due date: Wednesday, 10/11 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
8	10/6-10/18	Chapter 8 – Peace Making & Order Maintenance <i>Assignment #6: Arrest policy for juveniles vs. adults (Due date: Wednesday, 10/18 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
9	10/18-10/25	<b>No Assignment Do</b>
10	10/25-11/01	Chapter 9-Police & Crime
11	11/01-11/08	Chapter 10 – Innovations in Police Strategies & <b>SECOND EXAM (must be taken by 11:59:00pm, Central Time, Wednesday, November 8th)</b>
12	11/08-11/15	Chapter 11 - Police Discretion <i>Assignment #7. Use of force in police work (Due date: Wednesday, 11/15 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
13	11/15-11/22	Chapter 12 – Police Community Relations <i>Assignment #8. Video: Rodney King beating and riots: CNN documentary (Due date: Wednesday, 11/22 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)</i>
14	11/22-11/29	Chapter 13 – Police Corruption

*Assignment #9. Commission to combat police corruption (Due date: Wednesday, 11/29 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)*

- 15      11/22-12/4              Chapter 14 – Accountability of the Police  
*Assignment #10: Predicting Five Dimensions of Police Officer Stress by Zhao et al. 2002 in Police Quarterly (Due date: Monday, 12/04 by 11:59:00pm, Central Time)*
- 16      **12/04-12/07 FINAL EXAM**