

The Sociology of Law Enforcement SO230Z

Course Syllabus

Moravian College
Spring 2006
Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm
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Text: Larry K. Gaines, Victor E. Kappeler and Joseph B. Vaughn. Policing In America, fifth edition. Anderson Publishing.

Course Description:

This course is designed to explore local, state and federal law enforcement in America. The course will analyze police at work and their interaction within society. Topics include the history and development of policing, police-community relations, and minorities in policing. Law enforcement structure, operations, and culture will also be discussed.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify and interpret the various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States.
- Students will have the ability to predict police behavior and their response to crime and other social issues.
- Students will comprehend the ethical and moral decision making process of law enforcement officers.
- Students will be able to identify police stressors and their consequences.
- Students will be prepared to enter the recruitment and screening process unique to criminal justice agencies.

Student Evaluation: Course grade will be based on the following percentage criteria along with the instructor's qualitative judgment based on class attendance and class participation. Handwriting on quizzes and exams must be legible to receive credit. Students can expect to work approximately seven hours per week outside of class.

Quiz #1 (2/01/06 prior to lecture)	10%
Midterm exam (2/22/06)	20%
Quiz #2 (3/22/06 prior to lecture)	10%
Quiz #3 (4/12/06 prior to lecture)	10%
Assignments	20%
Final exam	30%

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken in each class. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up work and assignments missed. Regular attendance, along with class participation, can assist a student and enhance a borderline grade. Absences occurring on a quiz or exam date shall require a medical excuse and/or an excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs. Unexcused absences on a quiz or exam date shall result in a grade of zero. Students are expected to arrive on time.

Assignments:

There shall be a series of assignments given throughout the course. Students are required to complete all assignments on time. Late assignments shall receive a grade of zero and shall not be accepted unless severe circumstances prevented timely submittal. An excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs shall be required for any late submittal requests. Students that are absent shall be responsible for obtaining assignment information and instructions. Students that are absent on a due date shall ensure the assignment is submitted on time (beginning of class on due date). Unless otherwise instructed, all assignments shall be typed and double spaced. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.

Students with Disabilities:

Students who believe they may need special accommodations for any disability, are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible. Also, please notify the instructor of any concerns so accommodations may be implemented.

Academic Honesty:

Please read the policy on Academic Honesty in your student handbook. Cheating on exams, quizzes, or other assignments (plagiarism) shall result in a grade of zero for the assignment or test. A subsequent cheating episode shall result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Schedule: (tentative)

Wednesday January 18 Introduction to the course. Chapter 1: The Police in American Society

Wednesday January 25 Chapter 2: Historical Perspectives

Wednesday February 1 (Quiz#1) Chapter 3: Personnel Systems

Wednesday February 8 Chapter 4: Organization and Management

Wednesday February 15 Chapter 5: Police Operations

Wednesday February 22 Mid-term exam

Wednesday March 1	Chapter 6: Police Discretion
Wednesday March 8	Spring break
Wednesday March 15	Chapter 7: Police Use of Force
Wednesday March 22	(Quiz #2) Chapter 8 Police Culture and Behavior
Wednesday March 29	Chapter 9: Ethics and Deviance
Wednesday April 5	Chapter 10: Civil Liability
Wednesday April 12	(Quiz #3) Chapter 11: The Police in the Modern Community
Wednesday April 19	Chapter 12: Policing the Drug Problem
Wednesday April 26	Chapter 13: The Future of Policing
May	Final Exam