1. Required Class Materials


2. Course Description

This course will provide students with an overview introduction of the role of police in the criminal justice system and the broader society. The course will emphasize the development of policing, agencies of law enforcement, and role and places of law enforcements in contemporary America. Course content will provide students a general overview of policing in the United States. Moreover, some important and controversial issues and topics in terms of policing will be discussed and examined in the class.

3. Course Objectives

By the end of the class, students are supposed to

a) Gain factual knowledge about policing (history, philosophy, theories, and terminology, etc.)
b) Gain factual knowledge of the operations and practices of the police, and
c) Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of police system and controversial issues of policing.

4. Course Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to complete the following assignments. Detailed requirements and due dates are stated in the Course Schedule and Assignments section of this course syllabus.

There is a total of 250 points for this class.
a) **Weekly quizzes (10 x 10=100 points)**

There will be *ten quizzes* in this class. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The quiz will include multiple choices questions, true/false questions, short answer questions, and case studies.

Questions will be from the class lectures of instructor as well as guest speakers.

b) **Essay (50 points)**

The essay is based on the movies assigned for the class. Students are required to choose one of the movies with which they are interested.

By discussing some storylines in the movie, students should illustrate exemplary understandings of one or some of the relevant policing topics or issues discussed in the class. In order to do this, students should thoroughly and correctly address the relevant content, identify and explain all of the key concepts/ideas, and use correct terminology explaining their perceptions.

The essay should be three pages at minimum not counting the cover page and reference page (reference pages are not required unless you use outside sources), double-spaced, 12 points Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and APA format.

A good essay should be well organized and logically structured, well-developed. Proper English is required. No evident grammatical errors should be in the essay.

The essay should be submitted through **Blackboard**.

c) **Class presentation (30 points)**

Students will be assigned into different groups for a presentation. The topic of the presentation is the law enforcement systems of different countries, no including the U.S. A. The content of the presentation should include but not limited to the law enforcement systems and practice of the countries student select.

Student presentation will be graded upon the quality of the information, performance of the teamwork, organization of the PowerPoint, performance of presentation, and peer evaluation.

d) **Final exam (50 points)**

This class will have a final exam with the same question format of class quizzes.

5. **Extra credit (25 points)**

   a) **Class attendance (10 points)**

   a. Being absent one time without university-recognized reasons will lead to the loss
of 1 extra credit point, which will ultimately affect your total course grade.

b) **Ride along with a police department (15 points)**
   a. Contact the police departments themselves and set up a ride along with the police department with which they are interested in.
   b. Write an essay at maximum two pages without counting the cover page about this experience upon completion of the ride along.
   c. The essay should cover following information, including but not limited to, name of the police department and police officer, what activities he/she and the police officer did in the ride along, what did he/she learn from the ride along, did the experience consist or contradict the knowledge he or she learnt in class, and any other interesting findings or topics related to policing.
   d. The essay should use standard APA style as discussed above.
   e. Ride along and related assignment could be done any point throughout this semester, but should not conflict with the class schedules.

6. Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>225-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>200-224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>175-199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>150-174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
<td>149 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Make up Assignments and Exams/Quizzes

If students fail to take any exams/quizzes without a university-recognized reason, such as illness, religious observance, and compelling situations that are out of the students’ control, the exam/quiz will not be given again. If students know beforehand that they will miss an examination/quiz, they should come and talk to the instructor as soon as possible. Make up exam/quiz will be the same format and number of questions as the exam that students missed.

8. University Calendar of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Last day to add a class or register for fall classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw and receive an 80% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday; university closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw and receive 70% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Census day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sept. 18 | Last day to withdraw and receive a 50% refund
Sept. 25 | Last day to withdraw and receive a 25% refund
November 15 | Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)
November 23-25 | Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes
December 7 | Study Day. No classes
Dec. 8-14 | Final exams
Dec. 15-16 | Commencement exercise
Dec. 18 | Grades due at 3 PM

9. Class Content Warning

This course will touch on some topics and issues, which may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals. This may include but is not limited to violence, sexual violence, offensive/foul language, controversial laws, practices, or treatments, and cases of fictional or real criminal investigations. Anyone who does not act professionally and respectfully will be asked to leave class for the day at the instructor’s discretion, and may be subject to University conduct policies.

10. Emails to the Instructor

Email is the preferred mode of communication between students and the instructor. Emails must be sent from your UTRGV email accounts, AND include the following information to guarantee a response:
   a) At least the course title, ‘Police Systems and Practices – CRIJ 2328’ as the subject
   b) Clear and full sentences explaining the reason for the email and what you need from the instructor.
   c) Your full name.

11. Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time.

**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu

12. Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

13. Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

14. Scholastic Integrity:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

15. Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

16. Course Drops:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students
may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

17. Tentative Schedules of Class Meetings and Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subjects &amp; Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Introduction and Syllabus Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug.30</td>
<td>Chapter one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3    | Sept. 4  | Chapter two                     | Quiz one
Guest Lecture * |
| 4    | Sept.11  | Chapter three                   | Quiz two
Guest lecture * |
| 5    | Sept. 18 | Chapter four                    | Quiz three
Guest lecture*   |
| 6    | Sept. 25 | Chapter five                    | Quiz four
Guest lecture*   |
| 7    | Oct. 2   | Chapter six                     | Quiz five
Guest lecture*   |
| 8    | Oct. 9   | Chapter seven                   | Quiz six               |
| 9    | Oct. 16  | Chapter eight                   | Quiz seven
Guest lectures |
| 10   | Oct. 23  | Chapter nine                    | Quiz eight
Guest lecture*   |
| 11   | Oct. 30  | Chapter ten                     | Quiz nine
Guest lecture*   |
| 12   | Nov. 6   | Field trip                      | Edinburg PD            |
| 13   | Nov. 13  | Chapter twelve                  | Quiz ten
Guest lecture*   |
| 14   | Nov. 20  | Chapter thirteen                |                        |
| 15   | Nov. 27  |                                  | Class presentation     |
| 16   | Dec. 4   |                                  | Study Day
No class |
| 17   | Dec. 8-11|                                  | Final Exam
Paper due at 11:59 PM |

*Guest speakers are invited to lecture part of the class.