The Sociology of Law Enforcement SO230Z

Course Syllabus

Spring 2005
Thursday 6:30pm-9:30pm
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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. Students can expect to work approximately seven hours per week outside of class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz #1 (1/27/05 prior to lecture)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam (2/24/05)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz #2 (3/24/05 prior to lecture)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper/presentation due (4/14/05)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (5/5/05)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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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 will require a medical excuse or an excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs. Unexcused absences on a quiz or exam date will result in a grade of zero. Students are expected to arrive on time.

Term Paper/Presentation Assignment:
Each student will be required to complete a term paper covering a law enforcement activity or social issue. Examples topics could include: DUI checkpoints, pursuit policies, recruitment practices, racial profiling and trends in civil litigation. Also, your topic may discuss an incident you personally experienced involving law enforcement and its personal or social impact. Each student will present his or her paper to the class including a critique of the law enforcement topic. The length of the presentation will be a minimum of fifteen minutes and a maximum of twenty minutes.

The paper will be a minimum of four pages and a maximum of eight pages (text). Your paper should be concise and to the point. Be certain to give credit to authors and cite sources of text or data used in your report. The paper must be typed and double spaced. The paper and presentation will be due 4/14/05. Order of presentation will be randomly chosen. Late submissions for the term paper and other assignments will require a medical excuse or an excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs. Unexcused late submittals for the term paper and other assignments will result in a grade of zero.

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 will result in a grade of zero for the assignment or test. A subsequent cheating episode will result in a failing grade for the course.

Course Schedule: (tentative and subject to change)
Thursday January 13  Introduction to the course. Chapter 1: The Police in American Society
Thursday January 20  Chapter 2: Historical Perspectives
Thursday January 27      (Quiz#1) Chapter 3: Personnel Systems
Thursday February 3    Chapter 4: Organization and Management
Thursday February 10   Chapter 5: Police Operations
Thursday February 17   Chapter 6: Police Discretion
Thursday February 24   Mid-term exam
Thursday March 3        Chapter 7: Police Use of Force
Thursday March 10       Spring Break-no class
Thursday March 17       Chapter 8: Police Culture and Behavior
Thursday March 24       (Quiz#2) Chapter 9: Ethics and Deviance
Thursday March 31       Chapter 10: Civil Liability
Thursday April 7        Chapter 11: The Police in the Modern Community
Thursday April 14       Chapter 12: Policing the Drug Problem (term paper due, presentations start)
Thursday April 21       Chapter 13: The Future of Policing (presentations)
Thursday April 28       Presentations
Thursday May 5           Final Exam