

CCJS 340-0201: Policing

University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Term: Fall 2026

Instructor: D. Michael Weller, MS

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Teaching Assistant: An undergraduate teaching assistant (UTA) will be assigned to this course; the UTA's name, contact information, and office hours will be shared during the first week of class

Credits: 3

Course Dates: August 31 to December 21, 2026 (Fall 2026 semester)

Course Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 to 3:15 PM

Classroom: Susquehanna Hall (SQH), Room 1120

Prerequisite: CCJS 100

Course Description

This course critically examines the many facets of modern policing. Topics include the societal role of police, the organizational structure of police departments, the legal constraints officers operate under, police misconduct, the use of deadly force, and the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves. We also investigate the initiatives police departments have implemented to improve service quality and review current research on the effectiveness of policing strategies. Class discussion will regularly draw on current events shared through periodic email updates, so students should plan to stay current with assigned readings and announcements.

Required Resources

- Course Website: elms.umd.edu
- Required text: Weller, D. "Making of a Police Officer in the 21st Century". 2026. Kendall Hunt, First Edition. ISBN 9798319731470. See the publisher's page: he.kendallhunt.com/product/making-police-officer-21st-century
- Required report: President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. 2015. Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. This report is provided at no cost through ELMS under "Files" and is also publicly available through the Office of Justice Programs.
- Periodic instructor emails containing links to current events that will be discussed in class

Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the basic roles and functions of law enforcement officers in the United States
- Understand the application of discretion within policing
- Understand the legal rules that govern police behavior
- Understand the ethical requirements within law enforcement
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rules governing police use of force and response to resistance, and the application of that force
- Understand the hazards of police work that officers face, including stress, violence, mental health, and legal liability
- Be familiar with the research conducted on what works in policing and how this knowledge can improve the quality of policing
- Understand the concepts of leadership within law enforcement
- Understand the increasing value of technology and the importance of best practices and equipment
- Understand the impact that police behavior has on community relations and the importance of strong community relationships
- Understand the impacts of police corruption
- Be familiar with hiring, recruitment, and training policies in policing today

Course Structure

This is an in-person, lecture-based course that meets twice weekly. Lectures build on the assigned readings, so students should complete each reading before the class session it supports. Roughly two-thirds of exam content is drawn from lecture, and the remaining third comes from the textbook and articles discussed in class, so consistent attendance and active note-taking are essential. Several sessions are devoted to a guest lecture and to team project presentations near the end of the semester; specific expectations for those sessions will be reviewed in class.

Tips for Success in This Course

- Attend and engage. Because a majority of exam material comes directly from lecture, regular attendance and active participation are the strongest predictors of doing well in this course.
- Keep up with the reading. Falling behind on even one chapter makes it difficult to follow the lecture that builds on it. Check the schedule at the end of this syllabus and read ahead of each class.
- Check ELMS and your Terpmail email regularly. Announcements, current-events links, and any schedule changes will be communicated there, and students are responsible for staying current.

- Start the team project early. The assignment involves identifying and evaluating substantiated material relevant to law enforcement today, so early planning gives your team time to research thoroughly before presentations.
- Ask for help before it becomes urgent. If you are struggling with the material or with an assignment, reach out to me or the UTA well before an exam or deadline.

Course Guidelines

Inclusive Learning Environment, Names, and Pronouns

This course prioritizes an inclusive and respectful classroom environment. Students are expected to treat their peers and instructors with respect and to foster a space for open intellectual exchange. Diverse opinions are essential to learning, and I encourage open dialogue without intimidation; no student should ever feel marginalized. If you experience discomfort during a class discussion, please let me know promptly. You are welcome to tell me how you would like to be addressed in this class, both in terms of your name and your pronouns. Keep in mind that the pronouns a person uses are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. It is your choice whether to disclose how you identify in terms of gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, or ability, and I ask that we extend one another the same respect on these matters.

Video or Audio Recording

No recording devices are permitted during lecture, and video or audio recording of class sessions, activities, or discussions is prohibited without my advance permission. Maryland is a two-party (all-party) consent state, meaning that everyone participating in a conversation must agree before it can be recorded or otherwise captured. If you have an accommodation that requires recording, please contact me and Accessibility and Disability Services so we can arrange it properly.

Email and Communication with the Instructor

The University has designated your Terpmail account as your official email address, so all course communication must go through that account. I will do my best to respond to emails promptly; if you do not hear back within a reasonable time, please follow up. I will use ELMS to post the syllabus, grades, and handouts, so make sure your ELMS notification settings are enabled and check your Terpmail and ELMS inbox regularly. If you experience technical problems with ELMS, contact the ELMS support desk at 301-405-1500, and also let me know by email at dweller1@umd.edu.

Classroom Conduct and Communication with Peers

The success of this course depends not only on my ability to convey complex material but on our collective effort to sustain a productive learning environment. Students are expected to come prepared and to engage actively in class. Disruptive behavior, meaning any conduct that substantially or repeatedly interferes with class proceedings, such as late entry, unauthorized exits, loud disturbances, or speaking without recognition, will not be tolerated and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or Campus Police. I encourage you to exercise your right to free expression and to debate ideas confidently, while keeping the discussion professional; this course is not a space for hate speech,

harassment, or derogatory language. Please alert me immediately if you ever feel personally attacked, mocked, or silenced during a discussion.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

A UTA will be assigned to assist with this course throughout the semester, including facilitating specific assignments and assisting with grading. Professional courtesy toward the UTA is expected at all times. The UTA will hold office hours twice a week: at least two hours will be held in person, and any remaining office hours may be held virtually. The specific schedule and location will be announced during the first class.

Major Assignments and Grading

Exams

There are two exams this semester, each covering a specified portion of the material; neither exam is cumulative. Exams are primarily multiple choice with some true/false and matching, and approximately two-thirds of exam content comes from lecture, with the remaining third drawn from the textbook and articles discussed in class. Exams are Major Scheduled Grading Events under University policy, so the University's medical excuse policy that allows a student to sign an honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them; documented excused absences are required for a makeup, as described below. If exams are administered in person, bring your University ID and a pencil, as exams are scored on Scantron. If the course moves to an online format for any reason, exams will instead be administered through ELMS using your UMD login credentials. Each exam is worth 50 points, or approximately one-third of the final grade.

Team Project

A team project will be assigned during the semester. This project is designed to help you identify and evaluate substantiated material relevant to the challenges facing law enforcement today. The assignment will be outlined in detail during class to make sure every student understands the expectations. The team project is worth 50 points, or approximately one-third of the final grade, and culminates in presentations during the final weeks of the semester. Each student will be required to present their research on the designated project the team has chosen.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities, if any, will be assigned at the professor's discretion during the semester.

Use of Technology

Students may use personal computers to take notes during class. If a student uses a personal technology device for any purpose unrelated to note-taking, that student will lose the privilege of using any personal device for the remainder of the semester. No recording devices are permitted during lecture.

Grading Structure

Final grades are based on the following point totals:

Graded Component	Points
Exam I	50
Team Project	50
Exam II	50
Total	150

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
143-150	A+	128-134	B+	113-119	C+	100-104	D+
139-142	A	124-127	B	109-112	C	95-99	D
135-138	A-	120-123	B-	105-108	C-	89 or less	F

Makeup Exam Policy and Excused Absences

Makeup exams are given only for documented, excused absences. Exams are Major Scheduled Grading Events, so the University's medical excuse policy that allows a student to sign an honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them; formal documentation is required instead. Recognized excused absences include illness supported by formal medical documentation, a death in the immediate family, required University activities, and a required court appearance. If you are seen at the Health Center, please request documentation that specifically excuses you from class, since a general visit confirmation is not sufficient for a makeup exam.

You must notify me before missing an exam, whether in person, by email, in writing, or by phone, so that a makeup can be considered. Makeup exams are essay in nature. If a problem arises on the day of the exam, call me directly. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam due to an approved absence, you are expected to take the exam before the scheduled date; these early exams are typically administered online through ELMS.

Accessibility and Disability Support

I will provide accommodations for students who register with Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) and share an ADS Accommodation Form with me for the Fall 2026 semester. I ask that you provide this form by September 14, 2026, the end of the schedule adjustment period, so that accommodations can be arranged with plenty of lead time; consistent with University policy, I will still honor a form provided after that date, though earlier notice allows for smoother planning. ADS-registered students requesting to take exams at the Testing Center should provide me with a testing form for each exam no later than one week before that exam, and should confirm with me that the form was

received, since it is sent directly to instructors by ADS. Students taking an exam at the Testing Center are still expected to test during the same window as the rest of the class.

For assistance in obtaining an accommodation, contact Accessibility and Disability Services at 301-314-7682 or adsfrontdesk@umd.edu.

Religious Observances

If a scheduled exam date conflicts with a religious observance, you must discuss this with me by September 14, 2026, the end of the schedule adjustment period, so alternate arrangements can be made. Please review the University's current policy on religious observances for additional guidance.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on exams and quizzes, including the use of sites such as Chegg or Quizlet during graded assignments, providing false statements, and possessing or reviewing exams from previous semesters. The University's approved Honor Pledge will be referenced on each exam, and on every exam or assignment you must write and sign the following pledge: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this exam or assignment."

The University of Maryland's nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council, sets the standard for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students, and you are responsible for upholding it in this course. You should understand the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Additional information on your rights and responsibilities under the Code of Academic Integrity is available through the Office of Undergraduate Studies and the University Student Judiciary website. If you are ever unsure whether a form of collaboration is acceptable on a given assignment, please ask me before proceeding.

Course assistance websites such as Course Hero are not permitted sources for this course unless I explicitly say otherwise, and material drawn from those sites may be treated as unauthorized and a violation of academic integrity.

AI Policy for This Course

AI assistance, including tools such as TerpAI, ChatGPT, Gemini, and Grammarly, is not permitted for exams, the team project, or any other graded assignment in this course. Using AI technology to complete graded work is treated as a form of academic dishonesty under the Code of Academic Integrity described above. This policy exists to help you build a genuine, independent understanding of the course material; you are welcome to use these tools in other contexts in the future. If you have questions or believe a specific exception may be appropriate, please contact me and I am happy to discuss it. For more on the University's broader position on generative AI, see the UMD guidelines on Generative AI for Teaching and Learning at ai.umd.edu/resources-guidelines/guidelines-for-use.

The table below summarizes the level of collaboration and outside assistance permitted for each major graded component; assignment-specific instructions will always take precedence if they differ.

Assignment	Open Notes	Use Text/Book	Learn Online	Gather Content with AI	Ask Classmates	Work in Groups
Homework / Reading Reflections	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Exams	No	No	No	No	No	No
Team Project	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Grades: Access, Review, and Disputes

All assessment scores will be posted on the course ELMS page, so you can track your standing throughout the semester. If you would like to review any graded work, including an exam, or have a question about how something was scored, email me to schedule a time to meet and go over it together. I am glad to discuss any grade with you, and if I have made an error, I will correct it. Any formal grade dispute must be submitted in writing within one week of the grade being posted. Because it would be unfair to apply the grading scale inconsistently, final letter grades are assigned strictly according to the point cutoffs above; being close to a cutoff is not the same as meeting it.

Final Exam Notice

Exam II is administered during the University's finals period, December 14 through 21, 2026, through ELMS, consistent with university policy that undergraduate courses giving a final exam during finals week must state the exam date or note that it will be announced by the University. Refer to the Registrar's official final exam schedule for the most current dates.

Course Experiences

Your feedback about this course is valuable, and we will use several methods to gather it throughout the semester. Please complete the University's online course evaluation, now administered through Student Feedback on Course Experiences, at courseexp.umd.edu when it opens near the end of the semester. All submissions are confidential. Students who submit evaluations for all of their courses from the previous semester (excluding summer) can view posted results for any course with at least a 70 percent response rate through Testudo. <https://courseexp.umd.edu>

Copyright Notice

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works, and my lectures are recorded or delivered from written notes to help ensure that protection. You may take notes during lecture and use course materials for your own enrichment in this class. Recording, reproducing, or distributing my lectures or notes for a commercial

purpose requires my written consent, and violations, such as selling or distributing copies or modified versions of my course materials, may be referred under the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Resources and Accommodations

Emergency Preparedness

Emergencies on campus can happen at any time. Visit prepare.umd.edu, or use the emergency symbol in the UMD app, to review preparedness information. Resources for students with disabilities are available on the emergency preparedness page of the ADA Coordinator's website, accessibility.umd.edu.

Student Resources and Services

Taking responsibility for your own learning includes recognizing when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Come talk with me so I can help point you toward the right resources, and visit UMD's Student Academic Support Services website at tutoring.umd.edu to learn about the range of support available to you. Everyone benefits from sharpening their writing, so consider scheduling an appointment with the campus Writing Center. UMD's Student Resources and Services website, hosted by the Dean of Students Office, is another good starting point, and if you would find it helpful to talk with someone, the University Counseling Center is available at counseling.umd.edu.

Basic Needs Security

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day, or you lack a safe and stable place to live, please visit UMD's Division of Student Affairs website for information about the resources the campus offers, and let me know if I can help in any way.

Veteran Resources

UMD provides additional support to student veterans through the Office of Veteran Student Life and the University Counseling Center. Veterans and active-duty military personnel with special circumstances, such as upcoming deployments, drill requirements, or disabilities, are encouraged to communicate these to me, ideally in advance, so we can plan accordingly.

Notice of Mandatory Reporting

As a faculty member, I am designated a Responsible University Employee, and I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD's Title IX Coordinator, consistent with the University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct.

If you would prefer to speak with someone confidentially, UMD's confidential resources include CARE to Stop Violence, located on the ground floor of the Health Center, at 301-741-3442, and the University Counseling Center, located in the Shoemaker Building, at 301-314-7651. You may also contact UMD's

Title IX Coordinator, Angela Nastase, JD, at 301-405-1142 or titleixcoordinator@umd.edu. Additional information is available through the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct at ocrsm.umd.edu.

University Course-Related Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and follow University of Maryland policies that apply to all courses, including academic integrity, student and instructor conduct, accessibility and accommodations, attendance and excused absences, grades and appeals, and copyright and intellectual property. Please review the Office of Undergraduate Studies' Course-Related Policies at ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html, and follow up with me if you have any questions.

Schedule and Reading List

The following is the schedule for lecture topics and exams. I encourage you to keep up with the reading as we go. Dates and assignments are subject to change; any changes will be communicated through ELMS.

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
09/01 Tue	Introduction, Expectations, Role of Police in Society, The Journey	Making of a Police Officer in the 21st Century, Intro/Chapter One
09/03 Thu	What Defines a Law Enforcement Officer; Discretion and Decision Making	21st Century Policing Task Force, Pillar One
09/08 Tue	Diversity, Representation, and the Workforce of Tomorrow	Chapter Two
09/10 Thu	The Development of American Policing	Chapter Three
09/15 Tue	The Role of Police in a Democratic Society	Chapter Four, Pillar Two
09/17 Thu	Police Culture and Subcultures	Chapter Five
09/22 Tue	The Human Behind the Badge	Chapter Six
09/24 Thu	Stress and Risks in Policing	Pillar Six
09/29 Tue	Policing a Society in Crisis: Responding to Persons with Mental Illness	Chapter Seven
10/01 Thu	Use of Force / Response to Resistance	Chapter Eight
10/06 Tue	Use of Force / Response to Resistance (continued)	
10/08 Thu	Exam I	May be administered through ELMS Canvas
10/13 Tue	Fall Break, no class	
10/15 Thu	Leadership, Mission, and Building an Organization Worth Serving	Chapter Nine, Pillar Three

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
10/20 Tue	Leadership, Mission, and Building an Organization Worth Serving (continued)	
10/22 Thu	Community Policing	Chapter Ten, Pillars One and Four
10/27 Tue	Community Policing (continued)	Chapter Ten, Pillars One and Four
10/29 Thu	Guest Lecture	
11/03 Tue	Evidence-Based, Intelligence-Led, and Predictive Policing	Chapter Eleven
11/05 Thu	Evidence-Based, Intelligence-Led, and Predictive Policing (continued)	
11/10 Tue	Public Policy and Law Enforcement	Chapter Twelve
11/12 Thu	Team Project Presentations	
11/17 Tue	Team Project Presentations	
11/19 Thu	Team Project Presentations	
11/24 Tue	Team Project Presentations	
11/26 Thu	Thanksgiving Recess, no class	
12/01 Tue	Emerging Trends in Law Enforcement Technology	Chapter Thirteen, Pillar Three
12/03 Thu	Recruiting, Retaining, Hiring, and Training	Chapter Fourteen, Pillars Five and Six
12/08 Tue	Ethics and Professional Responsibility	Chapter Fifteen
12/10 Thu	The Future of Law Enforcement: A Call to the Profession	Chapter Sixteen
12/14 to 12/21	Exam II	Administered on ELMS during the University final exam period

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change; monitor ELMS for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged University closure or an extended absence from the University, adjustments to the schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closure and the specific dates missed.