CCJS 340-0101   Policing   Instructor: D. Michael Weller, MS

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Meetings: by appointment only

Spring 2026   Tuesdays / Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45 PM   **Tydings Hall (TYD) Rm 0117**

Course Description: Policing in Contemporary Society

This course critically examines various facets of modern policing. Topics covered include the societal role of police, organizational structures within police departments, legal constraints faced by officers, instances of police misconduct, use of deadly force, and the complex relationship between law enforcement and the community. Additionally, we investigate initiatives police departments implement to enhance service quality and explore research on the efficacy of policing strategies.

COURSE PREREQUISITE

CCJS 100

TEXT

Dunham, Roger, and Geoffrey Alpert (Eds.) *Critical Issues in Policing*. 2021. Waveland Press: Ill. EIGHTH EDITION.   ISBN 1-4786-4046-4

 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.

Note: This report is located in ELMS for our class under "Files" or on the web @

 Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing | Office of Justice Programs (ojp.gov)

 Periodic emails with links to current events that will be discussed in class.

 UMD COURSE RELATED POLICIES WEBSITE

 The University has created a UMD Course Related Policies website:

http: www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatetedpolicies.html

EMAIL POLICY

The University has decided that your official email for all classes is your TERPMAIL email. Therefore, all of our communication must be through your TERPMAIL email account.

Inclusive Learning Environment

In this course, we prioritize an inclusive and respectful classroom environment. Students are expected to treat their peers and instructors with respect, fostering a space for intellectual exchange. Diverse opinions are essential for growth, and we encourage open dialogue without intimidation. No student should ever feel marginalized. If you encounter discomfort during class discussions, please promptly inform the instructor. Additionally, we recognize the significance of name and gender identity in personal well-being. Let's honor each other's chosen names and pronouns.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the basic roles and functions of law enforcement officers in the U.S.
2. Understand the application of discretion within policing.
3. Understand the legal rules that govern police behavior.
4. Understand the ethical requirements within law enforcement.
5. Be knowledgeable about the rules governing police use of force/response to resistance and application of said force.
6. Understand the hazards of police work that officers face, including such types as stress, violence, mental health, and legal liability.
7. Be familiar with the research conducted on what works in policing and how this knowledge can improve the quality of policing.
8. Understand the concepts of leadership within law enforcement.
9. Understand the increased value of technology and utilizing best practices/equipment.
10. Understand the impact that police behavior has on community relations and the importance of having strong relationships with those communities.
11. Understand the impacts of police corruption.
12. Be familiar with hiring, recruitment, and training policies in policing today.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are two exams this semester, each covering a specified portion of the material. ***None of the exams are cumulative***. **Exams are major scheduled graded events; therefore, the university medical excuse policy allowing one student to sign an honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.** Exams are primarily multiple choice with some true/false and matching. Approximately 2/3 of the exam questions come from lectures, and the remaining 1/3 come from the textbook and articles discussed in class. You must bring your University ID for exams administered in person. If the class meets in person, exams will be in-person and require your UID and a pencil (they are scored on Scantron). If we move to an online format for any reason, online exams will be conducted through ELMS, which requires your personal UMD login credentials. Each exam constitutes approximately 33.3% of your grade.

In addition, a team project will be assigned during the semester. This project will assist in identifying substantiated material that faces law enforcement today. The assignment will be further outlined during class to ensure all students understand what is required. This will be worth the remaining 33.4%. Additionally, there may be opportunities for extra credit.

Final grades will be determined by the following:

Exam I	50 points
Team Project	50 points
Exam II	50 points
Total points	150
143-150	A+
139-142	A
135-138	A-
128-134	B+
124-127	B
120-123	B-
113-119	C+
109-112	C
105-108	C-
100-104	D+
95-99	D
90-94	D-
89 or less	F

Extra Credit: If available will be assigned by the professor.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students can use their personal computers to take class notes in this class. If a student is found to be using personal technology devices in any way unrelated to taking class notes, the student will lose the privilege of using any personal technology device for the semester. In addition, no recording devices will be allowed as part of any lecture.

MAKEUP EXAM POLICY/EXCUSED ABSENCES

I have a very strict policy regarding makeup exams and excused absences. Makeup exams will only be given in cases of excused absences, and official documentation is required. **Exams are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events. Therefore, the University medical excuse policy that allows one student to sign an honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.** Excused absences are illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required University activities, and required court appearance. **I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness.** If you go to the health center and a doctor does not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to a copy of this, which is your responsibility. I must be notified in person, by e-mail, in writing, or by phone **before** missing an exam so that I can consider giving you makeup. Makeup exams are essay in nature. If you have a problem on the exam day, call me. **If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam before the exam date.** Typically, these exams will be conducted online through ELMS.

ELMS / CANVAS

I will use ELMS to post the syllabus, grades, and handouts. Go to http://elms.umd.edu and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature. If should experience any problems:

1. Contact the ELMS support desk at 301- 405-1500
2. Send me an email letting me know what has occurred. (Dweller1@umd.edu)

DISABILITY SUPPORT

I will accommodate students who register with the Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) Office and provide me with an updated University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form for the Spring 2026 semester. This form is due to me no later than February 5, 2026. I cannot accommodate students who do not register with ADS or provide me with documentation reviewed by ADS before February 5, 2026. ADS-registered students requesting to take their exams at the Testing Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam, due no later than 1 week before each exam; students should ensure that the form was received as it is emailed directly to the instructor. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

If you cannot take any scheduled exams on the date shown at the end of this syllabus due to a religious observance, you must discuss this with me by January 29, 2026. Please see current policy.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty in any form is not tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses traditional behaviors such as cheating on exams and quizzes (including using sites like Chegg & Quizlet during graded assignments), providing false statements, and using AI technology. Academic dishonesty also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing exams from previous semesters. Additionally, students will be reminded of the University-approved Honor Pledge on each exam. The University of Maryland, College Park, has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity in Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. You must know the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Office of Undergraduate Studies : University of Maryland (umd.edu) for more information on the student's rights and responsibilities, including the Code of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct. You will find additional information by reviewing the University Student Judiciary website.

Classroom Code of Conduct

The success of this class hinges not only on my abilities as an instructor to convey complex ideas but also on our collective effort to foster a conducive learning environment. As a Department and University, we expect faculty and students to come prepared and actively engage in classroom activities. Disruptive behaviors hinder other students' learning opportunities. According to the University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity, classroom disruption includes any behavior that substantially or repeatedly interferes with class proceedings. Examples include late entry, unauthorized exits, loud disturbances, and speaking without recognition. These norms apply equally to virtual classrooms. When participating online, focus on the content, keep your microphone muted when not speaking, and work in a quiet setting.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who fail to demonstrate civility toward their peers or instructors may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or Campus Police. Adherence to the Code of Student Conduct is expected.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

There will be a **UTA** assigned to our class that will assist with the course during the semester. Professional courtesy will be expected as they assist in facilitating specific assignments, discussion posts, and grading. They will also conduct office hours twice a week, one will be in person and the other will be conducted virtually, location TBD. Those office hours will be explained during our first class. The UTA is there to assist with a level of confidence to ensure your success of the course.

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. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written notes to ensure copyright protection.

You can take notes during my lectures and use course materials for enrichment in this class. However, recording, reproducing, or distributing my lectures or notes for commercial purposes requires my written consent. Violations, such as selling or distributing copies or modified versions of my course materials, may be subject to the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Course Evaluation

Your feedback about this course is highly valuable. Throughout the semester, we will utilize various evaluation methods. One such method is the online evaluation, which you can complete at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be accessible for Spring 2026 courses starting in April. To participate, visit the website directly at www.courseevalum.umd.edu. Additionally, students who evaluate all their courses from the previous semester (excluding summer) can access posted results via Testudo's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus, with at least a 70% response rate.

SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

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

Date	Topic 75 minute	Assigned readings
01/27 Tuesday	Introduction / Role of Police in Society	Section I Ch 1-3 & Pillar 1 21st Century Policing
01/29 Thursday	Development of American Policing Police Subculture	
02/03 Tuesday	Role of Police in Society	Section III Ch 10-13
02/05 Thursday	Police misconduct / Code of silence	
02/10 Tuesday	Police Discretion	Section IV Ch 14-16 & Pillar 2 21st Century Policing

02/12 Thursday	Legal Aspects of Policing	
02/17 Tuesday	Gender and Racial Differences in Policing	Section VI Ch 26 - 29
02/19 Thursday	Stress and Risks in Policing	
02/24 Tuesday	Dealing w/ Persons with Mental Illnesses	Section VI Ch 25 Section VII Ch 33 & Pillar 6 21st Century Policing
02/26 Thursday	Use of Force / Response to Resistance	Section V Ch 17-23
03/03 Tuesday	Use of Force / Response to Resistance	
03/05 Thursday	Exam 1	This may be administered through the online ELMS Canvas
03/10 Tuesday	Community Policing / Engagement	Section II Ch 4-9 & Pillar 3 21st Century Policing
03/12 Thursday	ComStat / Intelligence-led Policing / Fusion Centers	
03/24 Tuesday	Leadership in Policing	Section VIII Ch 34 & 36 & Pillar 4 21st Century Policing
03/26 Thursday	Leadership in Policing	
04/31 Tuesday	Leadership in Policing	
04/02 Thursday	Evidence-based and Predictive Policing	
04/07 Tuesday	Public Policy	
04/09 Thursday	Crisis Management (Internal / External)	
04/14 Tuesday	Crisis Management (Internal / External)	
04/16 Thursday	Presentations	
04/21 Tuesday	Presentations	
04/23 Thursday	Presentations	
04/28 Tuesday	Presentations / Peaceful Assembly	
04/30 Thursday	Training and Selection Process	Pillar 5 21st Century Policing
05/05 Tuesday	Technology in Policing	
05/07 Tuesday	Future of Policing /Review	
05/08-05/13	Exam 2	Will be administered on ELMS