



Use of Force

CCJS 498V
Fall 2021

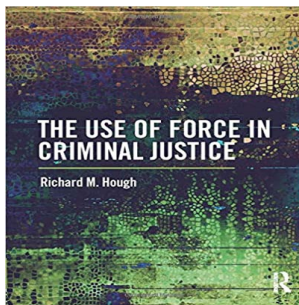
Learning Outcomes

CCJS498V is an elective course designed to provide students with an understanding of the use of force by both public safety organizations and private individuals. Students will become familiar with legal decisions, legal concepts, policies, and procedures that are related to the use of force. Students will gain exposure to important psychological, biological, and physiological factors that can influence human behavior and memory in force encounters. Research-based and practical-application approaches will be utilized in this class. After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the laws, policies, and other legal aspects that guide the use of force.
- Examine the utilization of lethal and less-lethal force.
- Evaluate training associated with the use of force.
- Identify the physiological and psychological considerations associated with the use of force.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with use of force in law enforcement, in corrections, by tactical teams, and by private individuals.

Required Resources

Course website: elms.umd.edu



The Use of Force in Criminal Justice
Hough, Richard
1st Edition (2018)
ISBN #: 978-1138221451
Recommended

**Dr. Kristina
Hedgepeth**

kja5535@umd.edu

Class Meets

Mondays
12:30 pm -
1:45pm/Blended

Building III
Room 4212

Office Hours

Contact me

Prerequisites

N/A

Course Communication

Time sensitive information will be sent via ELMS announcement. To discuss questions, absences, or accommodations, you may contact me via email (listed above) or via ELMS. Here is a link with helpful guidance on writing professional emails: ter.ps/email



Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

****Information on emergency closings:** We do not follow College Park for closing information but rather USG. Here is the site with that information:

<http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/campus-services/public-safety/campus-alerts>

Activities, Learning Assessments, & Expectations for Students

This class is a blended learning class meaning we meet one day a week in the classroom and the other portion is asynchronous learning through online assignments and materials provided in the Canvas classroom. This class will consist of class discussions, group activities, lectures, videos, written assignments, quizzes, guest speakers, simulations, a midterm and a final exam. The assignments to follow in this syllabus are general instructions. See specific instructions for each assignment, which is highlighted in each section.

Article and Video Analyses

Students will be assigned four articles to review at various points of the semester related to use of force topics. Students will also review a video that is associated with a primary theme of the article. Each student will state how the video corresponds to a primary theme of the article. Finally, each student will articulate their opinion as to the reasonableness of the use of force portrayed in the video. This is only a snapshot of the assignments. See *Instructions for Use of Force Assignments* under "Files" on ELMS for further instructions.

All assignments must be submitted via ELMS. Assignments will only be accepted for full credit when they are received by the beginning of class on the due date assigned. For every day that a submission is late, 5% will be deducted from the total score (starting on the due date after the time deadline). All assignments must be the original work of the student. 50 points per article (200 total points).

Use of Force Project Presentation

The class will be divided into groups and will review and evaluate an actual use of force incident and then present their findings to the class. This is only a snapshot of the assignment. See *Instructions for Use of Force Assignments* under "Files" on ELMS for further instructions. 75 points.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam, both worth 100 points. Both exams will be taken via the "Quiz" feature on ELMS. The format of the each exam will be announced at least two weeks prior to administration, but will generally consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The date of both exams is posted



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2021

below on the course calendar. Unless prior permission is given, all students are required to take an examinations on the day it is scheduled. If prior permission is not obtained, students will receive a zero (“0”) for that examination. The instructor is not bound to provide the same examination/format for make-up examinations. All students must ensure that their login for ELMS is current and operational.

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes, each worth ten points. Unless it is an excused absence, there will be no opportunity to make up a missed quiz if the quiz is given in class.

Writing Assignments/Submissions/Discussions Boards

All assignments shall be submitted via ELMS by the start of class on the assigned due date. For every day that a submission is late, 5% will be deducted from the total score (starting on the due date after the time deadline). This syllabus does not provide specific instructions for writing assignments. The syllabus simply provides an overview.

For specific instructions regarding each writing assignment, refer to the *Instructions for Use of Force*. This can be found under the “Files” section on ELMS.

Discussions

There will be **7 posted discussion** topics to be completed worth 10 points each. With this being a blended course, it is a requirement to participate to meet our class/credit hours. Each Student will post a Discussion response in the Discussion section. For grading purposes, you will also need to post your answer in the Assignments section as well under the number it corresponds with. **All answers will be a minimum of 200 words and will use at least 1 APA reference that should be included at the end of your response. Each student will respond to at least 1 classmates’ response, and it will need to be a minimum of 100 words. Discussion initial responses are due by Thursday night at midnight and replies are due by midnight Sunday night of the class week to receive credit.**

Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to be on time. Whether classes are live or online, tardiness is disruptive. While participation is not graded per-se, class participation, to include discussion, group and individual class work, and respectful interaction between the instructor and students are emphasized in this course. Each student is expected to be prepared for, and contribute to, the Use of Force Project presentation.

Students who miss a single class for a medical reason must make a reasonable effort to contact me in advance by email or phone, and upon return to class, forward a self-signed note which acknowledges that the information provided is accurate. A student’s failure to provide an accurate statement is a violation of the honor code. What to do if you must seek to be excused from class: Excusal will be granted, at my discretion, and make up work and late assignments accepted in these emergency cases as contracted and documented in email between the student and instructor. In case of absence, students are responsible for requesting missed material from me or another student. Three or more absences for medical reasons require medical documentation from a health care provider. In the event a student is absent for a major grading event, such as an exam or presentation, the student must provide documentation of illness from a health care provider as well as notify me in advance. Students with written, valid excused absences are entitled to a makeup exam at a time mutually convenient for the instructor and student.



Course-Specific Policies

If you have a hardship please contact me as soon as possible so we can work out a solution. The key is communication and prompt notification. If you let me know of an issue we almost certainly can work out a solution. I am more than happy to work with someone that has a valid issue(s) they are experiencing.

For this course, some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page. I have chosen to use this tool because it can help you improve your scholarly writing and help me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#).

Get Some Help!

Taking personal responsibility for your own learning means acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. I hope you will come talk to me so that I can help you find the right approach to success in this course, and I encourage you to visit tutoring.umd.edu to learn more about the wide range of campus resources available to you. In particular, everyone can use some help sharpen their communication skills (and improving their grade) by visiting ter.ps/writing and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center. You should also know there are a wide range of resources to support you with whatever you might need (see go.umd.edu/assistance), and if you just need someone to talk to, visit counseling.umd.edu or [one of the many other resources on campus](#).



Most services are free because you have already paid for it... all you have to do is ask for it.

Basic Needs Security

If you have difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or lack a safe and stable place to live and believe this may affect your performance in this course, please visit go.umd.edu/basic-needs for information about resources the campus offers you and let me know if I can help in any way.

Grades

Grades are not given, but earned. In other words, the standard is the standard. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually. If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

Students may review their progress at any time by entering the “grade-book” feature in ELMS. You will have an ongoing opportunity to evaluate your progress in this course and decide if you need to make any adjustments (additional study, tutoring, conference with instructor etc.) to assure your success in this course. If you would like to review any of your grades (including the exams), or have questions about how something was scored, please email me to schedule a time for us to meet. You may also contact me at any point during the semester. ELMS can be accessed via the following link: <https://myelms.umd.edu/login>

Unless previously arranged, late work will not be accepted for course credit so please plan to have it submitted before the scheduled deadline. I am happy to discuss any of your grades with you, and if I have made a mistake, I will immediately correct it.



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2021

You may consider seeking assistance from the Center of Academic Success, located on the Shady Grove campus. Mission: The Center for Academic Success (CAS) at USG empowers undergraduate and graduate students to develop effective learning strategies, self-efficacy, persistence, and leadership through customized academic and disability support.

CAS offers the following services:

- Writing appointments for feedback on assignments and personal statements
- Statistics and Research Methods assistance with course work, projects, and presentations
- Academic coaching on time management and study strategies
- Disability support services for students registered with accommodations
- Peer-led programs for targeted courses including Guided Study Sessions and Writing Fellows

Learning Assessments	#	Points (Each)	Category Total	Category Weight
Discussions	7	10	70	11%
Quizzes	5	10	50	8%
Article Analysis	4	50	200	5%
Use of Force Project Presentation	1	50	75	6%
Midterm Exam	1	100	100	20%
Final Exam	1	100	100	20%
Total Points:			595	100%

Final Grade Cutoffs					
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%
		D	64.00%	F	<60.0%
		-	60.00%		

Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned.

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Subject	Content
1	8/28	Course Overview & Chapter 1	Introduction, Considering the Use of Force in Criminal Justice Discussion Week 1-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
2	9/11	Chapters 1 & 2	Considering the Use of Force in Criminal Justice & Law and the Use of Force Discussion Week 2-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
3	9/18	Chapter 3, Article & Video	The Construction and Content of Force Policies (Guest Speaker)



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2021

		Assignment 1 Due by Midnight 9/24, Quiz 1	
4	9/25	Chapter 4, Quiz 2	The Use of Less Lethal Force Discussion Week 4-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
5	10/2	Chapter 5, Quiz 3	The Use of Lethal Force Discussion Week 5-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
6	10/9	Chapter 6, Article & Video Assignment 2 Due by Midnight 10/15	Physiological and Psychological Considerations in Force Situations
7	10/16	Midterm Exam- Online	Topics Covered from 8/28 to 10/9
8	10/23	Chapter 7	Training to Use Force (Simulation) Discussion Week 8-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
9	10/30	Chapter 8, Article & Video Assignment 3 Due by Midnight 11/5	Use of Force in Law Enforcement
10	11/6	Chapter 10, Quiz 4	Force by Tactical Teams Discussion Week 10-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
11	11/13	Chapter 11, Quiz 5	Force and Special Populations Discussion Week 11-Initial Response due by midnight Thursday, Reply post due by midnight Sunday
12	11/20	Civilian Use of Force, Article & Video Assignment 4 Due by Midnight 11/26	Civilian Use of Force
13	11/27	TBD	TBD
14	12/4	Use of Force Project Presentations	Group Presentations



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2021

15	12/11	Use of Force Project Presentations	Group Presentations
16	TBD	Final Exam- Online	Topics Covered from 10/23 to 12/5

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