



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2025

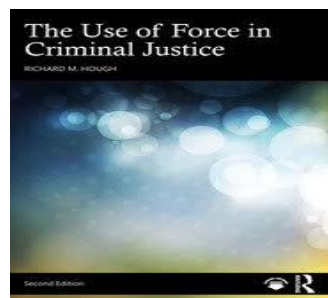
Learning Outcomes

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 human performance factors that can influence 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 various force responses, options, and levels of force.
- Evaluate training associated with the use of force.
- Examine human factors considerations in 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
2nd Edition (2025)
ISBN #: 9781032632742
Recommended

Shawn Eastman

seastman@umd.edu

Class Meets

Thursdays
3:30 pm -6 pm
Building III
Room 3225

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



Use of Force

CCJS 498V
Fall 2025

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 will consist of class discussions, lectures, videos, written assignments, quizzes, guest speakers, and simulations. The assignments to follow in this syllabus are general instructions. See specific instructions for each assignment, which is highlighted in each section.

Submitting Assignments and Late Penalties

All assignments, to include quizzes and written submissions, 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 papers must be related to the assigned topic. All assignments must be the original work of the student.

Article and Video Analyses

Throughout the semester, students will be assigned four articles related to the use of force. Each article will be paired with a video that illustrates key themes discussed in the reading.

For each assignment, students must:

1. Read the assigned article.
2. Watch the corresponding video.
3. Identify one key theme from the article.
4. Explain how that theme connects to the video.
5. Evaluate whether the use of force shown in the video was reasonable.

Each article and video pair is worth 50 points, for a total of 200 points. Links to the articles are provided below. This is a summary only. Detailed instructions can be found in the document titled "Instructions for Use of Force Assignments" under the *Files* section on ELMS.



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2025

Use of Force Review Project

Each student will receive a Use of Force Packet, which includes:

- A written narrative describing a use of force incident
- A corresponding video of the incident

Students are required to:

1. Review the narrative and video
2. Answer a series of questions, applying the following:
 - Relevant case law
 - Gaithersburg Police Department Policy 600.1: *Response to Resistance and Aggression*
 - Maryland Public Safety Article §3–524 (Maryland Use of Force Statute)

This assignment is worth 100 points. This is a brief overview—full instructions are available in the document titled “Instructions for Use of Force Assignments” under the *Files* section on ELMS.

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes, each worth 50 points. Unless it is an excused absence, there will be no opportunity to make up a missed quiz.

Participation and Attendance

Punctuality & Participation:

Students are expected to arrive on time for all classes, whether held in person or online. Tardiness is disruptive and discouraged.

While participation is not graded directly, active involvement is a critical part of the learning process. This includes:

- Engaging in discussions
- Participating in group and individual class activities
- Maintaining respectful interaction with both the instructor and fellow students

Electronic Device Policy

Use of electronic devices—such as laptops, tablets, and other portable technology—is permitted in class only for official academic purposes, including:

- Taking notes
- Accessing course materials
- Participating in course-related activities

All other uses, including but not limited to texting, browsing social media, watching videos, or working on assignments for other classes, are not allowed during class time, as they are disruptive to both the student and the learning environment.

Students who misuse devices may be asked to put them away and could lose the privilege of using them in future classes. If you require the use of a device for accessibility purposes, please inform me at the start of the semester.

Final Class Participation Requirement:

Each student is expected to be prepared for and actively contribute to the Use of Force Final Project discussion during the final class. Students who fail to participate in the final discussion without an excused absence will receive a 10% deduction from their total project score (e.g., the maximum score will be reduced from 100 to 90 points).



Absences & Excused Leave

Single-Class Absence (Medical)

- Make every effort to notify me in advance via email or phone.
- Upon return, submit a self-signed note confirming the medical absence.
- Providing false or inaccurate information is a violation of the Honor Code.

Multiple Absences (Medical)

- Three or more medically related absences require official documentation from a healthcare provider.

Major Graded Events (e.g., Exams or Presentations)

- Students must notify me in advance and provide a doctor's note to be excused.
- Students with a valid, documented excuse are entitled to a makeup exam at a mutually agreed-upon time.

Requesting an Excused Absence

- Excused absences are granted at the instructor's discretion.
- All arrangements must be confirmed via email between the student and instructor.
- Make-up work and late assignments will be accepted in these cases only if agreed upon in advance.
- Students are responsible for obtaining missed materials from the instructor or classmates.

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 must 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. Students can expect that the final grade appearing in the “Grade” feature on ELMS is their final grade. 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.

As previously mentioned, students may review their progress at any time by entering the “Grade” 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, or have questions about how something was scored, please email me to schedule a time for us to meet. 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. ELMS can be accessed via the following link:

<https://myelms.umd.edu/login>

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
Quizzes	4	50	200	40%
Article Analyses	4	50	200	40%
Use of Force Project	1	100	100	20%
Total Points:			500	100%

Final Grade Cutoffs									
+	97.00%	+	87.00%	+	77.00%	+	67.00%		
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%	D	64.00%	F	<60.0%
-	90.00%	-	80.00%	-	70.00%	-	60.00%		

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



Use of Force

CCJS 498V
Fall 2025

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Subject	Content
1	9/4	Course Overview & Chapter 1	Introduction, Considering the Use of Force in Criminal Justice
2	9/11	Chapters 1 & 2	Considering the Use of Force in Criminal Justice & Law and the Use of Force
3	9/18	Chapter 3, Article & Video Assignment 1 Due	The Construction and Content of Force Policies and Necessary and Proportional
4	9/25	Chapter 4, Quiz 1 Due	The Construction and Content of Force Policies and Necessary and Proportional
5	10/2	Chapter 5	The Use of Less Lethal Force
6	10/9	Chapter 6, Article & Video Assignment 2 Due	The Use of Lethal Force
7	10/16	Quiz 2 Due	Human Factors Considerations in Force Situations
8	10/23	Chapter 8	Use of Force in Law Enforcement
9	10/30	Chapter 7, Article & Video Assignment 3 Due Class meets at the MCP PSTA 8751 Snouffer School Road Gaithersburg, MD 20879	Training to Use Force (Simulations)
10	11/6	Chapter 10, Quiz 3	Force by Tactical Teams
11	11/13	Chapter 11	Force and Special Populations
12	11/20	Chapter 9 Article & Video Assignment 4 Due	Use of Force in Corrections



Use of Force

CCJS 498V

Fall 2025

13	11/27	Thanksgiving Break	No class
14	12/4	Civilian Use of Force, Use of Force Final Project Due	Instructor Presentation
15	12/11	Use of Force Project Discussion, Quiz 4	Final Project Discussions

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.