

**CCJ 4934**  
**Senior Seminar: Critical Issues in Policing**  
**Spring 2012**

Meets: Thurs 6-8:50PM (Videoconference)  
Room A205 USF Sarasota-Manatee  
and  
Room 204 North Port

**Instructor:**

Ernie Scott, Ph.D.  
College of Arts & Sciences, Room C243  
Office Phone: (941)359-4256  
Email: [edscott@sar.usf.edu](mailto:edscott@sar.usf.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Thursdays from 4:30 to 6PM at Sarasota-Manatee campus  
Occasional Thursdays at North Port campus from 4:30-6PM

Appointments are strongly encouraged. Email is the surest and quickest way to contact me.

**Course Description**

This course looks at some of the most critical issues in contemporary American law enforcement and the challenges facing researchers who study the police. Topics include the selection, training, and monitoring of police personnel; evolving police tactics, technologies, and strategies; and the role of police in the post-9/11 society.

**Course Objectives**

This course is a Senior Seminar in which students are expected to integrate knowledge and skills developed during their undergraduate studies. The general course objectives are to provide students the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge regarding the current state of police organization, behavior, strategies, issues, and related research on the police and criminal justice policies.
- Build an understanding that while core “critical issues” – such as use of force, police integrity, and police performance – are persistently critical, these issues must be evaluated in the unique contexts of the law, technology, community, and perceived threats of crime present at a given time or era.
- Demonstrate critical thinking ability through the construction of sound arguments based on inductive and deductive approaches and quantitative analyses.
- Demonstrate knowledge of research methods used in the fields of criminology and criminal justice.
- Produce clear, concise, correct, and convincing writing appropriate to the discipline.
- Develop oral presentation skills to clearly convey information and make persuasive, evidence-based arguments.

**Required Textbook**

White, M. D. (2007). *Current issues and controversies in policing*. New York: Pearson Education.

**Recommended Textbook**

American Psychological Association (2009). *APA Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition*. Author.

## **Course Requirements**

**Note: APA style is required in all written course work.**

### **Textbook & Online Readings**

Textbook and/or online readings are noted on the course schedule. You are expected to complete the reading assignment prior to the class meeting.

### **Research Brief**

A brief research assignment (2 pages) about Intelligence Led Policing is due on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The instructions and rubric for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Research Proposal**

The Research Proposal Paper (15-20 pages) is the central component of this course and provides you an opportunity to demonstrate your research, critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills. The Research Proposal consists of several incremental – and separately graded – assignments:

- Research Question
- Problem Identification & Importance
- Lit Review
- Methodology
- Final Proposal
- Research Presentation (PowerPoint)
- In-class Presentation (the oral presentation)

Instructions and rubrics specific to each assignment related to the Research Proposal will be discussed in class and/or posted on Blackboard. In general terms, you will design a well-researched and methodologically-sound proposal. This proposal will outline a research plan that is intended to “answer” a question related to a critical policing issue. You can choose to study any subject matter that you can credibly link to a “critical issue in policing.”

This course is designed to allow you to “build” your research proposal over a several-week period. You are strongly encouraged to plan your work well in advance and stay on schedule. You must pay close attention to instructions and rubrics if you want to earn a high score on your work.

Students will orally present their proposals in class during the final weeks of the semester. The presentations (10-15 minutes) are intended to inform the audience about the research problem and convince the audience that the research is important and methodologically sound.

### **Exams**

There are two non-cumulative exams in this course. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short responses. Information from the assigned readings, lectures, and Research Presentations will be included in the exams. We will have brief, pre-exam reviews in class, but these reviews will not substitute for reading assignments or note taking.

### **Quizzes/Classroom Participation**

I reserve the right to administer quizzes – without notice – at the beginning of class. Quizzes will cover the week’s readings and/or the prior class’ lectures/discussion.

The way I gauge the need for quizzes and participation grading is by monitoring student preparation for class each session (i.e., whether or not the class has kept up with readings and assignments). It will be difficult for you to productively participate in this class if you do not attend class, are late for class, or leave class early.

**Grading**

Assignment	Points Available
Research Brief on ILP	10
Mid-term Exam	50
Research Question	5
Research Problem & Importance	30
Lit Review	30
Research Methodology	30
Research Presentation PowerPoint	20
In-Class Presentation	20
Final Research Proposal	50
Final Exam	40
Quizzes/Participation	15
Total Points Available	300

Letter Grade for Course	Percentage	Point Equivalent
A+	96-100%	288-300
A	93-95	279-287
A-	90-92	270-278
B+	87-89	261-269
B	83-86	249-260
B-	80-82	240-248
C+	77-79	231-239
C	73-76	219-230
C-	70-72	210-218
D+	67-69	201-209
D	63-66	189-200
D-	60-62	180-189
F	59 or below	<120 points

**Class Policies**

**Attendance**

Punctual class attendance is expected. Class absence means you will miss lecture material that will be incorporated in quizzes and exams. Also, if you miss classes (or you are late) you may miss quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes.

As a courtesy, let me know (by email) if you cannot attend a class due to some legitimate conflict.

### **Late Work/Make-up Work/Extra Credit Work**

Assignments that are submitted late will be penalized 20% for each 24 hour period following the due date/time. Assignments that are more than 72 hours past-due will not be accepted. “Internet problems” do not excuse late work. Plan ahead – email assignments to me if you are unable to access Blackboard.

In the event that you miss an exam due to a documented emergency, I reserve the right to administer an alternative make-up exam to be proctored at the convenience of the University. I do not provide extra credit work options.

Exceptions to these policies are possible only in the case of a serious medical condition or other emergency. Report these circumstances to me via email or telephone prior to the class, assignment deadline, or exam session in question (or as soon as reasonably possible). Formal documentation of the exceptional circumstances will be required.

### **Classroom Demeanor**

The classroom is intended as a place where we can focus on learning. Distractions such as cell phones (talking or texting or phones ringing), chatting, playing games on laptops, IM’ing, etc. are not tolerated. Students creating these types of distractions will be asked to leave.

Further, the classroom is intended as a place where we can discuss, debate, and defend ideas in a professional and respectful fashion. Interrupting someone who is speaking, using insulting language, or other disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated.

### **Use of Blackboard**

As noted above, you will use Blackboard to submit certain assignments and to access documents and links that will help you study and successfully complete course assignments. Further, I will routinely use Blackboard for communications to this class between class meetings. I recommend that you check Blackboard and your University email account on a daily basis. I consider information delivered to you – and hold you accountable for that information – if I put it on Blackboard or send it by University email.

For technical support, you should contact the USF IT Help Desk. The Help Desk can be contacted by phone, email, or live chat at the “Help” link appearing at the top of your Blackboard entry screen, or at the Help/Technical Support link appearing on the left-side menu of the course main screen (Toll-free Helpline 866-974-1222 or [Live Online Help](#)). You may also find the [Blackboard & Elluminate for Students](#) page to be helpful.

This course requires you to submit your assignments through Blackboard. The [Submitting Assignments in Blackboard](#) guide will be important if you are a new Blackboard user.

You will need to access USF Library contents (e.g., journal articles). Access to these materials may be obstructed due to the security settings (e.g., pop-up blockers, firewalls) and other characteristics of your personal computer. *It is imperative that you troubleshoot and solve these problems at the beginning of the course.*

### **Honesty**

I am assuming that you are taking this course because you intend to either make a career in or enhance your career in the criminal justice arena. With that in mind, let me make it clear that there is NO room for cheating, stealing, wheedling, half-truths, plagiarism, lying, misleading, or other dishonest behaviors by justice system workers.

To ensure this point is made, let me make it clear that there is NO room in my course for dishonesty of any sort, and I will respond to dishonesty in the harshest manner permitted by University policy. I also note that justice system employers are not impressed by applicants who have “dishonesty” events in their academic record.

Let’s work together to ensure that this unpleasant subject does not arise in our classroom. You are responsible for understanding University definitions, policies, and sanctions concerning academic dishonesty. The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review

the university's policy in the [USFSM Undergraduate Catalog](#) and the [USF Student Code of Conduct](#). I may screen written assignments using **SafeAssign** to ensure the integrity of your work.

I will be using Blackboard to post additional examples of what is/isn't plagiarism as you begin working on your research. Please pay very close attention to this topic!

### **Collective Comfort**

Many criminology and criminal justice topics are not the subject of discussion in polite company. Unfortunately, in its purest definition, "crime" is deviant behavior and, therefore, discussions of crime and criminals can offend one's sensibilities. These are necessary discussions if we are to advance our knowledge. However, if a classroom discussion, lecture topic, video, audio, me, or another student is making you uncomfortable, please make an immediate appointment with me to discuss how we can deal with the issue.

## **USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures**

### **Religious Observances**

The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.

<http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf>

### **Disabilities Accommodation**

Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. [www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/)

Contact Information: Pat Lakey, Coordinator 941-359-4714  
[plakey@sar.usf.edu](mailto:plakey@sar.usf.edu)

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university's policy in the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

Graduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

USF Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88>

### **Academic Disruption**

The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog:, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.

Undergraduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

Graduate: <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/>

USF Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.sa.usf.edu/srr/page.asp?id=88>

### **Contingency Plans**

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull

messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

**Emergency Preparedness**

It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php>

**Fire Alarm Instructions**

At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

**Tentative Schedule as of 1/8/12 – Subject to Change**

**CCJ 4934 Critical Issues in Policing  
 Spring 2012**

All readings are from *Current Issues and Controversies in Policing* (White, 2007) unless otherwise noted.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Weekly Topic or Activity</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Assignments</b>
1/9	Mo	Semester Begins	
1/12	Th	Course Introduction & Overview	Review the course syllabus
1/16	Mo	No Classes – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	
1/19	Th	Policing in America – Past, Present, & Future	“The Evolving Strategy of Policing” (Kelling & Moore, 1988)  Ch 4 in White (2007)
1/24	Tu		Research Brief on ILP Due by 11:59PM
1/26	Th	Crime and Other Crime Data Sources Do the Police Matter?	Pages 1-19 in “Do Police Matter? An Analysis of the Impact of New York City’s Police Reforms” (Kelling & Sousa, 2001)  Ch 7 in White (2007)
2/2	Th	Police & Use of Force Criminology Assessment	“What We Know About Police Use of Force” (Adams, 1999) pp 1-14 in <i>Use of Force by Police: Overview of National and Local Data</i>  Ch 2 in White (2007)
2/3	Fr	Spring 2012 graduation application deadline	
2/9	Th	Police Recruiting & Selection	Ch 1 in White (2007) Additional reading TBD
2/2	Th	Police Deviance	Ch 8 in White (2007)

			Additional reading TBD
2/16	Th	Police Legitimacy & Mechanisms of Control	Ch 9 in White (2007) pages 312-319 of Ch 10 in White (2007) Additional reading TBD
2/23	Th	Mid-term Exam	
2/28	Tu		Research Question Due by 11:59PM
3/1	Th	Research Design – Sarasota Class Only	
3/6	Tu		Research Problem & Importance Due by 11:59PM
3/8	Th	Research Design – North Port Class Only	
3/12-16	M-F	Spring Break	
3/20	Tu		Lit Review Due by 11:59PM
3/22	Th	Research Variables, Methodology, & Analysis	
3/24	Sa	Last day to drop with a “W”; no refund & no academic penalty for Spring 2012	
3/27	Tu		Research Methodology Due by 11:59PM
3/29	Th	Limitations & Implications – Researchers & Practitioners – Preparing the Conclusion	
4/3	Tu		Research Presentation PowerPoint due by 11:59PM
4/5	Th	Student Research Presentations	
4/12	Th	Student Research Presentations	
4/17	Tu		Final Research Proposal Due by 11:59PM
4/19	Th	Student Research Presentations	
4/26	Th	Student Research Presentations Review for Final Exam	
5/3	Th	Final Exam	