

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

POLICING IN AMERICA
SOC 2200

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

**Laboratory
Hours: 0.0**

Date Revised: Fall 1998

Catalog Course Description:

Advanced exploration of crime, criminality, and policing with an emphasis on the varied roles of police in American society. Strong emphasis on transhistorical social and behavioral problems which have plagued police in their endeavors to prevent and control crime.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at the college level.

Prerequisite: SOC 1100

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Walker, Samuel. *The Police in America: An Introduction*. Third Edition. McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1999.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Police History: English policing and American policing
2	Organizing Public and Private Security: Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement
3	Organizing the Police Department: Departmental Organization
4	Becoming a Police Officer: Selection, Standards, and Training
5	The Police Role and Police Discretion: Operational Styles and Discretion
6	The Police Culture: Police Personality and Stress
7	Police Operations: Traditional Approach
8	Police Operations: A New Approach
9	Police and the Community: Community Policing/Problem-Solving
10	Police Deviance: Corruption and Misconduct
11	Women and Other Minorities in Policing: Discrimination in Policing
12	Specific Police Problems and Issues: Police Danger and Shootings

- 13 Specific Police Problems and Issues: Police Civil and Criminal Liability
- 14 Technology in Policing: Computers, Fingerprinting, Weapons, and Forensic Techniques
- 15 Police and the Law: The Police and the U.S. Constitution
- 16 Review for final examination, comprehensive make-up, and final examination

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Apply a comprehensive definition of crime and discuss how social values mold the definition of crime. I.5, IV.1, IV.2, IV.3
- B. Apply the basic principles of the classical view of crime. I.5
- C. Demonstrate a complete understanding of sociological and psychological theories on crime causation and provide examples of how those theories are put into practice by the criminal justice system. I.5
- D. Exhibit an adequate understanding of a scientific approach to criminal justice research. I.5, VII
- E. Provide a basic understanding of the varied social structural factors that facilitate application of the Constitution and how it relates to crime, criminals, police, and the criminal justice system. I.5, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Research and write a report on a specific police issue. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome*
2. Research the internet to find current information on policing. *Information Literacy Outcome, Technological Literacy Outcome*
3. Use oral presentation skills to present findings from research. *Communication Outcome*
4. Use teamwork to debate policing issues. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome*
5. Participate as a volunteer with an agency to learn more about career opportunities and about various dimensions of policing. *Transitional Strategies, Active Learning Strategies*
6. Practice elements of work ethic, such as punctuality, professionalism, dependability, cooperation, and contribution. *Personal Development Outcome*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State's goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the reasons why the study of crime causation is important to the field and practice of

- criminal justice. A,B,C
2. Discuss how the system would deter criminals and how situational crime practices deter crime. B,C
 3. Identify and describe the major theories on victimization and the role that victim precipitation plays in crime. B,C,E
 4. Explain the different ways crime may be classified. A,B,E
 5. Define the concepts of mala in se and mala prohibitum. A,B,E
 6. Explain and apply the three legal elements which constitute crime. A,B,E
 7. Discuss the emergence and impact of the professionalism movement in policing. A,B,D,E
 8. Describe in some detail the dramatic changes in American policing during the last thirty years. A,B,D,E
 9. Describe patrol activities and the sought after goals of police patrol. C,D,E
 10. Have an understanding of the inherent role conflict of proactive and reactive policing. B,C,D,E
 11. Describe the evolution of the community policing concept, the ways those ideas have been implemented, and the overall philosophy of community policing. A,D,E
 12. Understand how culture, personality, cynicism and policing styles can effect job performance. A,B,D
 13. Discuss in a general manner the control of police investigatory activities and the rule of law. A,D,E
 14. Provide details of the constitutional rights contained in the Fourth Amendment and the requirements for a valid search warrant. A,D,E
 15. List the significant exceptions to the search warrant requirements of the Fourth Amendment. A,D,E
 16. Describe the court rulings detailing the conditions under which a valid search incident to a lawful arrest can be made. A,D,E
 17. Describe the court rulings detailing the conditions under which a valid field interrogation or a valid stop and frisk can be made. A,D,E
 18. Describe the conditions under which an officer may detain a suspect on less than probable cause. A,D,E
 19. Describe the courts rulings detailing the conditions under which a motor vehicle may be searched, including the latest court ruling on roadblock searches. A,D,E
 20. Describe the court rulings detailing the doctrine of plain view and the concept of curtilage. A,D,E
 21. Explain the definition of arrest and the requirements for a warrantless legal arrest. A,B,D,E
 22. Summarize the legal rights afforded by the Miranda decision to the suspect undergoing custodial interrogation. A,B,E
 23. Provide a brief historical review of the Miranda decision. A,B,E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 80% of grade

There will be FIVE examinations each worth 100 points. The exams will cover lecture notes, assigned readings, films, and other materials presented in class. The exam questions will consist of matching, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and essay. The instructor will drop one of your lowest test scores. The remaining FOUR test scores will be used to determine 80% of your final course grade. No make-up examinations will be given. However, a difficult comprehensive final examination will be given at the end of the semester for those who miss two exams.

B. Laboratory Expectations: 20% of grade

The remaining 20% of your final course grade will be determined by individual internet research projects and class presentation. (Paper = 10%, Presentation = 5%). The remaining 5% of your grade will come from quizzes.

C. Other Evaluation Methods:

The Vision, a community volunteer network at PSTCC, will be used as a source of extra points. The points will range between 10-20 depending on hours completed. Please check with instructor for further details if interested. The extra points will be averaged in with your test scores.

D. Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Points</u>
92-100	= A	500-460
89-91	= B+	459-445
82-88	= B	444-410
79-81	= C+	409-395
72-78	= C	394-360
65-71	= D	359-325
Below 65	= F	324 or below

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory not optional. Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual department/program/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating and any other form of academic dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent. A grade of "F" will be awarded to those caught cheating, including plagiarism.

C. Late Assignments:

One-third(1/3) points will be deducted from late papers. The instructor will not accept papers after two days of the scheduled due date.