Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration & Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: CJAD 311

Course Title: The Police in a Democratic Society

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: An overview and analysis of law enforcement history, development, purposes and roles in a democratic society. Material is presented from a theoretical standpoint and examines critical issues and advances in crime control.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): CJAD 101 and junior standing. Offered odd fall.

Additional Information: This theory-based course applies a multi-causal model to explain police issues, integrating the history, social context, and correlates of policing into a theoretical understanding of policing in America.

It is designed to encourage students to see the relationships between three primary correlates of police practice—communities, police organizations, and individuals. It is designed to provide students an appreciation for the “big picture,” and an integrated understanding of policing.

Note that this course is different and distinct from courses addressing police and law enforcement supervision, management or administration. As such textbooks addressing those issues are not appropriate for this course.


Course Objectives:

- To enhance knowledge and understanding of the American system of policing.
- To understand the various levels of policing and how they interact with one another.
- To explore contemporary research in the area of policing.
- To trace the historical development of policing and law enforcement.
- To enhance critical thinking, research, and oral and written communication skills on policing issues.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Define the term *policing*.
- Explain the distinction between public and private police.
- Understand law enforcement organizations as open behavioral systems made up of interdependent and interrelated systems.
- Explain the historical, social, political and democratic aspects of policing and define essential concepts and concerns which have been traditionally central to policing.
- Explain the police organizational process and functions, communication and information flow, and processes for organizational improvement.
- Evaluate police use of discretion and analyze the strengths and weaknesses surrounding the issue of police discretion.
- Identify the range of legal issues that are of special interest to police.
- Understand the various levels of policing and knowledge of how they interact.
- Demonstrate a practical and working knowledge of the patrol and investigative functions of police.
- Describe the dichotomy between protecting individual rights of citizens and protection of the public as it relates to policing.
- Identify and evaluate current problems and issues relating to policing issues.
- Apply assorted values, theories, policies and concepts to real and hypothetical problems in law enforcement.
- Appraise current literature and developments regarding policing issues.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Processes of policing
- Roles of the police
- History of the police
- Police organization
- Police professionalism
- Police behavior and discretion
- Police authority and coercion
- Controlling police behavior
- Selection, training and development
- Police patrol and investigations
- Contemporary issues
Material from this course may be tested on the Major Field Test (MFT) administered during the Culminating Experience course for the degree.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Date: January 23, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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