



CJ 2328-01E

Police Systems

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

Meets 1/12/2026 – 05/08/2026

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am-12:15pm

Place: Austin Engineering, Technology & Agricultural
Sciences Building Room: 238

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Serdar San, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson 204

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-10:30am

University Email Address: serdar.san@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail

Communication Response Time: E-mail is the best way to contact me. I will respond to email and phone calls within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Text:

Cox, S. M., Massey, D., Koski, C. M., & Wentz, E. (2023). *Introduction to policing 5th edition*. SAGE.

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Other additional and/or supplementary required readings may be assigned during the semester.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course examines in a general survey format the establishment and functioning of police services in a democratic society. The course will focus on types of police agencies, their organizational structure, administration, police ethics, use of authority and police community interaction.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the foundations and the historical development of policing and law enforcement as well as the structure of police organization and administration in the United States.
2. Understand contemporary issues related to police operations, including recruitment, selection, training and promotion of police officers, as well as traditional and contemporary strategies in policing.
3. Examine critical topics related to police conduct, such as police culture and workplace experiences, police ethics and decision-making, and police misconduct and accountability.
4. Examine complex issues and challenges that impact American policing today, such as social diversity, advancements in technology, and global issues such as terrorism and transnational organized crime.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

For this course, it is recommended to have regular access to a computer and reliable internet. If you do not have access at home, you may be able to use a public library or come to campus to use computers in the library or one of the student computer labs. A basic understanding of Microsoft Office Programs (using and being able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word and PowerPoint) is required and you must be able to use Internet search tools, access D2L, use email, and know how to download and upload documents.

For your privacy and security, only your official ETAMU email account will be used for email communication. No information will be sent to personal email accounts. Please check your ETAMU email regularly.

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Instructional Methods

This course is a face-to-face course and class attendance is **highly recommended**. **Students who attend class will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in this course.** Students who, for whatever reason, miss a lecture will have to make arrangements to get notes from another student. If you miss class the day an assignment is due, the assignment must be submitted **before** class begins.

This course utilizes the D2L learning management system for the dissemination of supplemental materials. D2L allows for additional communication between students and the professor. Students should check D2L regularly for email announcements, handouts, articles, etc. that may be posted by the professor.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

This course is designed to help students explore, understand, and critique policing practices and systems. This requires a willingness to question common assumptions about policing, as well as our own. Students who engage with the assignments and course material and who come to class well prepared and willing to learn from the experiences and analysis of others will get the most out of the course.

Students experiencing any difficulty writing assignments are very much encouraged to visit the [ETAMU Writing Center](#). In addition, awareness of the course information and university policies provided in this outline will reduce frustration and maximize enjoyment of the course.

Class announcements will generally be posted on D2L and/or e-mailed to all students at their ETAMU email accounts. Messages for individual students will be e-mailed to ETAMU email accounts only, and only student messages from ETAMU email accounts will be read by the professor. It is important that you check D2L and your university email account regularly. Failure to do so cannot be used as a reason for dispensation of term work policies and course work requirements.

I am happy to answer questions about the course and about the field of criminology. If you have a question, please follow these guidelines:

1. **Check the course outline.** It is likely that a question about the course will already be answered in the course outline.
2. **Visit the professor's office hours.** I can be reached by e-mail for brief, factual questions only. If you have a question or concern that requires substantive or back-and-forth discussion, please come to my office hours. You are very welcome to come to my office hours with other students in the class if you are more comfortable raising questions or chatting that way. It is unlikely that I will be available outside my office hours, so it is advisable that you make yourself available during those times.

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3. Ask well in advance. I aim to respond to student e-mail within 24 hours. I will get back to you as soon as possible, but it is unlikely that I will be able to respond straight away. If you do not hear back from me after 24 hours, please re-send your e-mail. At busy times (e.g., prior to class tests or deadlines), there may not be time to meet with everyone who comes to my office hours. It is advisable that you come to ask questions well in advance.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	90%-100%	450-500
B	80%-89%	400-449
C	70%-79%	350-399
D	60%-69%	300-349
F	59% or Below	< 300

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Assessment	Point Value
Career Reflection Essay	80
In-class Test 1	75
In-class Test 2	75
In-class Test 3	75
In-class Test 4	75
Discussion Forum Posts (4 @ 30 points)	120
Total	500

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Assessments

Career Reflection Essay

Due Friday, May 1st by 11:59pm on D2L

For this assignment, you are expected to write a short essay (500–750 words) explaining how this course relates to a law enforcement/policing career. This assignment is designed to help you connect course concepts to real-world professional roles in law enforcement. You should organize your essay using the following format:

I. Introduction (approx. 1 paragraph)

- Introduce the law enforcement/policing career and its general responsibilities and how this career links to your values, interests, and personal strengths (VIPRESS)
- Present a thesis that outlines how this course prepares individuals for this role.

II. Analytical Body (2–4 paragraphs)

- Select 2–3 specific skills, knowledge or competencies from the course.
- Explain how each is relevant to the law enforcement/policing career's daily functions or responsibilities.
- Use specific examples, hypothetical scenarios, or case studies to support your analysis.

III. Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- Summarize your key points.

***Please note that all assignments will be submitted to plagiarism software. They will be assessed line-by-line (not by percentage). You are welcome to submit as many times as you want up until the due date. Please also review the AI Use Policy in this syllabus. The use of generative AI software is disallowed in this course.**

Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day and will not be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline. All assignments should be submitted to D2L by 11:59pm on the day they are due.

In-Class Tests

There will be four closed-book in-class tests over the course of the semester that coincides with the four modules of this course. The purpose of the in-class tests is to assess your overall understanding of each module and the associated core concepts

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presented in this module. There will be an in-class test following the completion of each module. These exams will include a variety of objective questions, such as true/false and multiple choice. Exams will be administered in-person on an assigned day according to the course schedule. Students will have the full class time to complete the exam. **Please do not miss a test, no make-up is planned or will be allowed except excused absences.**

Discussion Posts & Peer Responses

Weeks 2, 6, 10, and 15 due Sunday by 11:59pm on D2L

The purpose of the discussion posts and peer responses is to facilitate discussion regarding the assigned course materials. Discussion board postings are opportunities for you to express your knowledge and thoughts after reviewing information presented in the module. Discussions are directly related to the themes of that week. In these discussion posts, you will be expected to answer the assigned questions and engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates on various topics related to policing. The topic can be a controversial incident that involved police or a specific theme under one of the course modules. This type of assignment has several benefits. It requires you to review the material and identify what you think is the most important takeaway. It gives you an opportunity to see what stood out to other students, so you are able to learn from other perspectives. It also provides your instructor with valuable information about your interests and points of understanding or confusion.

Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality and a detailed analysis linking the material to a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and practice. Reading the assigned class material is the key to a productive engagement in discussion forums.

Discussion board entries (both your original post and peer response) must be a minimum of **250** words and must follow APA style for in-text citations and references. **Knowledge from the textbook** must be used, cited and referenced in each post. The introduction of outside materials is not mandatory (unless otherwise noted in the discussion topic assignment), but is recommended. In all cases, students must cite in-text and provide a full bibliography/works cited at the end of their post for all citations mentioned in the post. Your discussion board entries should include paragraphs and full sentences addressing a specific question I have posed.

You will also need to respond to one classmate's discussion board entry to receive full credit for the assignment. Your peer responses should be thoughtful and analytical, providing useful feedback to the initial poster. It is not enough to simply agree, disagree, or compliment the initial poster. When responding to other students, you must be respectful but please feel free to express disagreement, support or an alternative perspective. Appropriate netiquette should be used (see more information in **University Specific Procedures: Student Conduct**).

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You must complete your discussion board entry before responding to your peers. I suggest you complete your original post by Thursday so you also have time for your peer response, but the formal due date for both of your entries is by **Sunday at 11:59 PM of the assigned week. Please see the course schedule below for the discussion posts & peer responses due dates.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions about the class and/or the topics we are covering throughout the semester or have an issue that you think the professor needs to be made aware of, please send an email to my ETAMU email address. I will respond to emails within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again.

Emails are expected to be concise, clear, and respectful. Please make sure you include the title of the course (preferably in the subject line), and your full name in your email.

I will disseminate any important course-related information through your university email accounts and D2L announcements. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check course syllabus and announcements in D2L for an answer before you contact me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

You are required to use the citation style and format of the American Psychological Association (APA) in your assignments in this course. Review the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) or similar APA Citation Style online resource. For assistance with writing or formatting in APA, seek guidance from me, the [ETAMU Writing Center](#), [the Waters Library](#), and [OWL of Purdue](#).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Module	Week	Readings	Assignments Due
Module 1: Foundations of Policing	Week 1 01/12-01/18	Course Syllabus Chapter 1: Policing in the United States	N/A
	Week 2 01/19-01/25	Monday January 19 Martin Luther King Day (Campus Closed) Chapter 2: A Brief History of Police in the United States	Discussion Post & Peer Response #1 due Sunday by 11:59 PM
	Week 3 01/26-02/01	Chapter 3: Police Organization and Administration	N/A
	Week 4 02/02-02/08	02/03 Class Review 02/05 In-class Test #1	In-class Test #1 Thursday, February 5
Module 2: Police Operations	Week 5 02/09-02/15	Chapter 4: Recruitment and Selection of Police Officers	N/A
	Week 6 02/16-02/22	Chapter 5: Police Training and Education	Discussion Post & Peer Response #2 due Sunday by 11:59 PM
	Week 7 02/23-03/01	Chapter 6: Police Work: Operations and Functions	N/A
	Week 8 03/02-03/08	03/03 Chapter 7: Contemporary Strategies in Policing 03/05 In-class Test #2	In-class Test #2 Thursday, March 5

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Module 3: Police Conduct	Week 9 03/09-03/15	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	N/A
	Week 10 03/16-03/22	Chapter 8: The Police Culture and Work Stress	Discussion Post & Peer Response #3 due Sunday by 11:59 PM
	Week 11 03/23-03/29	Chapter 9: Law, Court Decisions, and the Police	N/A
	Week 12 03/30-04/05	Chapter 10: Ethics and Decision-Making	N/A
	Week 13 04/06-04/12	04/07 Chapter 11: Police Misconduct and Accountability 04/09 In-class Test #3	In-class Test #3 Thursday, April 9
Module 4: Contemporary Issues in Policing	Week 14 04/13-04/19	Chapter 12: Policing in a Diverse Society	N/A
	Week 15 04/20-04/26	Chapter 13: Technology and the Police	Discussion Post & Peer Response #4 due Sunday by 11:59 PM
	Week 16 04/27-05/01	Chapter 14: Organized Crime, Homeland Security, and Global Issues Chapter 15: The Future of Policing in the United States	Career Reflection Essay due Friday May 1st, by 11:59 PM

May 2nd-8th Spring Finals Week

Final Test: Tuesday, May 5th (10:30am-12:30pm)

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