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Spring 2-1-2019

SOCI 362.50: Sociology of Law Enforcement

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SOCIOLOGY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (SOCI 362)

Instructor: Darby Semenza

E-mail: darby.semenza@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Held Through Skype by Appointment

REQUIRED TEXT:

- Cox, Steven M., Susan Marchionna, and Brian D. Fitch. 2016. Introduction to Policing, Third Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Kappeler, Victor E. and Brian P. Schaefer. 2018. The Police and Society: Touchstone Readings, Fourth Edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the history of American Law Enforcement and why it developed as a formal means of social control.
- Be aware of the strategies and tactics that are used by the police to maintain and manage their role(s) in society.
- Become familiar with the internal issues that influence the attitudes and opinions of the police.
- Learn about the issues that the police face in the day-to-day interactions that they have with the public and how these are changing in contemporary society.
- Think critically about the role and actions of law enforcement and contemporary issues facing law enforcement and society.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **UMOnline-Moodle:** This course requires that you be able to navigate the UMOonline platform-Moodle. I will do my best to make course navigation very clear, but for those with more technical issues, I will be of little help. If you need assistance with this platform, please contact the UMOonline team at umonline-help@umontana.edu, or call (406) 243-4999 or (866) 255-1641 (toll free).
2. **The online environment:** This online format allows you the convenience of taking this course from an environment outside of the physical classroom. This offers certain advantages (i.e. flexibility to work around other commitments; receive feedback from the instructor without being tied to a classroom). However, this environment also requires that you be task oriented and stay on top of assignments and prepare for exams within the limits specified in the course schedule.
3. **Course Schedule:** Our weeks for this course will run from Monday to Friday, giving me time to grade and give feedback on weekends. Please see the course schedule for assignment due dates.
4. **Assignment Due Dates/Times:** All assignments are due by 11:59pm of the due date, unless otherwise indicated. All assignments will be graded in a timely manner.
5. **Late Work Policy:** No late work will be accepted without the instructor's prior approval.
6. **Naming and Submitting Assignments:** All assignments should be saved as Word documents and uploaded to the assignment on Moodle. Your files should be named with your last name and the assignment title. Do not submit assignments by e-mail.
7. **Student-Instructor Communication:** To protect privacy, the instructor of this course is only able to communicate to students through university email. This is your official University of Montana account. I will not reply to any other account with personal information.

When contacting me through email, be professional and courteous. Include the course number or course name (SOCI 362 or Sociology of Law Enforcement) in the subject line of your email. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours (it may take me longer to respond on the weekend). It is your responsibility to review the

materials and assignments at the beginning of the week and ask questions in a timely manner.

If you have general questions about the syllabus, assignments, or course content that you think are pertinent to other students, you can post these questions on the Q&A discussion board. If you have a question that only pertains to you, please email me. I will also be available through Skype for individual meetings by appointment.

8. **Student Success Expectations:** To be successful in this course, students should:
- Carefully read and print out this syllabus and the course schedule to keep as a reference.
 - Log on to Moodle and check your email every day for new announcements and content.
 - Keep up with readings and course content.
 - Complete all assignments on time.
9. **Academic Misconduct:** “Students at the University of Montana are expected to practice academic honesty at all times. Academic misconduct is subject to Academic Penalty (or penalties) by the course instructor and/or University Sanction(s) by the University through the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.” What is “academic misconduct”? What are the consequences? Please review the [Student Conduct Code](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

INTENT TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the professor. For more information visit the [Disability Services for Students Webpage](http://www.umt.edu/dss) (<http://www.umt.edu/dss>) and contact Disability Services.

GRADES:

Your grade for the course will be based on the total number of points earned throughout the semester.

480 total possible points are distributed as follows.

Introductory Activity	12 points
Course Material Discussions	5 @ 10 points each (50 points)
Purposeful Reading Assignments	14 @ 12 points each (168 points)
Exams	5@ 50 points each (250 points)
TOTAL	480 points

Letter grades will be calculated on a straight percentage basis, using pluses and minuses.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENTS:

Introductory Activity (12 points)

Your first assignment is to introduce yourself on Moodle (your name, where you are from) and write a short paragraph answering the following two questions:

1. Why are you taking this class?
2. What is your perspective of law enforcement and why?

This assignment will be graded based on your completion of the activity and your reading of your classmates' postings. This assignment will be due on Friday, January 18 at 11:59pm.

Course Material Discussions (50 points)

For each unit in the course, there is a short video pertaining to the unit's content that you must watch in order to answer the question(s) posed in the forum. Responses must be a **minimum of 250 words, discuss the unit's video and how it relates to the reading, and address the question(s) posed**. Responses are due by the last Friday of each unit at 11:59pm (refer to course schedule).

Purposeful Reading Assignments: 3-2-1 (168 points)

Throughout the semester, you will be required to submit several short assignments (1 per week; refer to course schedule) in response to the readings. Choose one chapter to focus on for this assignment each week from the reading list found on the course homepage. First identify the three most important aspects (concepts, issues, factual information, etc.) of the chapter and justify your choices. Then identify two aspects of the reading you don't understand and briefly discuss why these confusing aspects interfered in your general understanding of the reading. Lastly, pose one question to the author to which should go beyond the reading content. All assignments will be due Friday at 11:59pm.

Exams (250 points)

There will be five unit exams throughout the course. The exams cover specific chapters from each text and related course discussions. They will be composed of true/false and multiple-choice questions. Exams are due by the last Friday of each unit at 11:59pm (refer to course schedule).

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Course Schedule	Readings/Resources	Assignments
Unit 1: The History of Policing and Contemporary Practices		
Week 1: January 10 – January 18	Kappeler and Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preface• Chapter 1 – Kelling and Moore Article• Chapter 2 – Williams and Murphy Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory Activity• Purposeful Reading Assignment Due January 18 at 11:59pm
Week 2: January 21 – January 25	Kappeler and Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 3 – Skogan Article• Chapter 4 – Strecher Article• Chapter 5 – Crime and Social Justice Associates Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purposeful Reading Assignment Due January 25 at 11:59pm
Week 3: January 28 – February 1	Cox et al. Text <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preface• Chapter 1 – Policing in the United States• Chapter 2 – A Brief History of Police in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit Discussion Post• Purposeful Reading Assignment• Unit 1 Exam Due February 1 at 11:59pm

Unit 2: Functions of the Police		
Week 4: February 4 – February 8	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 • Chapter 7 • Chapter 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due February 8 at 11:59pm
Week 5: February 11 – February 15	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 • Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due February 15 at 11:59pm
Week 6: February 18 – February 22	Cox et al. Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 • Chapter 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Discussion Post • Purposeful Reading Assignment • Unit 2 Exam Due February 22 at 11:59pm
Unit 3: The Structure and Management of Police		
Week 7: February 25 – March 1	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 • Chapter 13 • Chapter 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due March 1 at 11:59pm
Week 8: March 4 – March 8	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 • Chapter 16 • Chapter 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due March 8 at 11:59pm
Week 9: March 11 – March 15	Cox et al. Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 • Chapter 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Discussion Post • Purposeful Reading Assignment • Unit 3 Exam Due March 15 at 11:59pm
Unit 4: The Police in Society		
Week 10: March 18 – March 22	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 • Chapter 19 • Chapter 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due March 22 at 11:59pm
Week 11: March 25 – March 29	Spring Break! Enjoy!	
Week 12: April 1 – April 5	Cox et al. Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 • Chapter 10 • Chapter 11 • Chapter 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Discussion Post • Purposeful Reading Assignment • Unit 4 Exam Due April 5 at 11:59pm
Unit 5: Contemporary Issues and the Future of Policing		
Week 13: April 8 – April 12	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 25 • Chapter 26 • Chapter 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due April 12 at 11:59pm

Week 14: April 15 – April 19	Kappeler & Schaefer Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 28 • Chapter 29 • Chapter 30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Reading Assignment Due April 19 at 11:59pm
Week 15: April 22 – April 26	Cox et al. Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13 • Chapter 14 • Chapter 15 • Chapter 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Discussion Post • Purposeful Reading Assignment • Unit 5 Exam Due April 26 at 11:59pm
Finals Week: April 29 – May 3	Finals Week	Good luck on your finals!

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced on the Moodle page.