

American Law Enforcement Systems C J 210

Professor: **Dr. Robert J. Durán**
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Class Hours: T&TR: 10:20-11:35
Class Room: Garcia Residence Hall 241B
Office: Breland Hall Room 141
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Office Hours: M&W: 5:15-7:00; TR: 4:15-5:45

Course overview

This course will be taught from a community perspective of American Law Enforcement. I have devoted a large part of my life toward challenging and attempting to reform law enforcement practices in two cities (Denver, Colorado and Ogden, Utah). I am currently researching law enforcement in New Mexico and along the United States/Mexico border. We will explore the origination of law enforcement, its reformation, and contemporary role in society. As the first discretion point, law enforcement is a critical area of study for learning how individuals enter and often remain in the criminal justice system. How do we determine who violates the law and how do we hold them accountable? How should law enforcement officers interact with residents and what standards should they follow? We will explore these questions and more throughout the semester.

Official communication will often come through your NMSU e-mail box and or WebCT. Please access these servers regularly, or forward it to your current email address, as your success in college may ride on your ability to respond quickly. WebCT will contain all course information [http://salsa.nmsu.edu/](http://salsa.nmsu.edu) You can also access this link on your my.nmsu.edu.

Required Readings:

Walker, Samuel and Charles M. Katz. 2008. *The Police in America: An Introduction*. Sixth Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Grading: Total Points = 1,000 points

Attendance	100 points
Participation	230 points
Presentation	150 points
Two Tests (Midterm & Final)	150 points each (300 total)
Two Assignments	110 points each (220 total)

Course Requirements

Attendance: Attendance will be checked regularly. I expect everyone to be seated before class begins. Walking in late or leaving early is a distraction to the class and will not earn full attendance credit. Prior to class starting let me know if you will need to leave class early. Getting in the routine of attending class regularly will help you throughout your college career. I will allow three unexcused absences. Each additional absence beyond three will deduct 33.3 points

from your attendance grade. Excused absences include emergencies and required school functions (examples include: death in the family, jury duty, heart surgery). Valid documentation must be presented within one week of absence. You are responsible for all information covered during an absence, so be sure to get the material from one of your classmates. **DO NOT MISS MORE THAN 6 TIMES OR YOU MAY NOT PASS.** Research data supports the strong relationship between attendance and better grades.

Readings: To ensure that you have the background information necessary for class discussions, all assigned readings need to be completed before class. Reading is essential for this class.

Presentation: You will be required to give a 7 minute oral presentation on a law enforcement topic covered in the media, research, or gathered through personal experience. Attempt to gather as much information as possible on the topic and pay close attention to the sources of data. Presentations help break up the normal routine of class and give everyone an opportunity to get involved. I will hand out a sign-up sheet. We will have two-three presentations a class. Your presentation will conclude with a short amount of time devoted to questions and answers. Your presentation grade will be graded according to your knowledge of the topic and quality of the presentation.

Participation: Your presence in class and active participation in discussion is mandatory. I strongly emphasize the knowledge building that occurs in the classroom. This is our space to speak how we feel and engage with people who have different opinions. I want to hear from every student in the class about what they think and why. I grade participation by the quality and quantity of contributions made to the class. I will look for comprehension of the class material and knowledge accumulated during your educational and life experiences. I expect well thought out and explained answers. If you write or say something, be aware of whether you can empirically prove your statements. In addition to class participation, I will utilize WebCT to encourage everyone's daily involvement. Cite your sources, if any, and minimize your usage of quotes. At a minimum these should be no less than one paragraph in length.

Negative Participation: There is no reason for rude or disrespectful comments. I will not tolerate sexist, racist, or demeaning language in class, WebCT, or in bi-weekly papers. If you feel like a nap, want to play on your cell phone, hold side conversations, fail to read, or engage in some other activity that wastes our time don't bother coming to class! I document negative participation into your overall grade. Disruptive behavior that conflicts with the course will result in a warning to change the behavior. If this behavior cannot be corrected by the third warning you will be administratively dropped from the course.

Two Tests: There shall be two multiple choice tests. Tests will cover material from readings, lecture, discussion, groups, news articles, and videos. Most of my lectures will build on the readings and not repeat the book. Therefore you need to read the chapters assigned. Tests are not cumulative and need to be taken when assigned. Test dates: March 3rd and May 7th.

Two Assignments: To help prepare you for upper-level course I am requiring two papers. Both written assignments will be composed of three complete pages with a fourth page for references. Follow these guidelines: one-inch margins, double space, 12 point font, and Times New Roman. Remember to check your spelling and grammar. Websites are helpful sources of information as are newspaper and research articles. I will expect at least five sources of information for each paper. Provide an introductory and concluding paragraph.

Law Enforcement Exploration Paper: (Deadline February 17) Choose a particular law enforcement agency and write an overview of how this agency operates. Provide some of the information from the themes discussed in the book such as characteristics of officers, role, type of policing, and additional topics of relevance listed in the Walker and Katz textbook. For example you can choose a federal agency such as Federal Bureau of Investigation, Border Patrol, or Drug Enforcement Administration or you can choose a particular location such as Las Cruces Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department or Otero County Sheriff's etc. Please attempt to contact someone from this agency, an expert on policing, or the person with inside knowledge for additional information. Include your personal observations and reasons for choosing this agency.

Law Enforcement Thematic Paper (Deadline April 14) The purpose of this paper is to learn more about a particular theme of law enforcement such as discretion, patrol, reforms, racial profiling, use of force etc. Explore the importance of this topic and its impact upon the community. Please attempt to contact someone from this agency, an expert on policing, or the person with inside knowledge for additional information

Late policy for writing assignments: Work turned in late is an inconvenience to me, as it requires me to adjust my grading schedule. I will deduct 5 points for each day late.

Cheating on a test, plagiarizing chapter questions or an assignment is **UNACCEPTABLE** and will result in a zero grade for that assignment. Please consult the student handbook:
http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpss/SCOC/student_hand_book.html

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, make it appear to be one's own. Any ideas, words, pictures, or other intellectual content taken from another course must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source. This is irrespective of the origin of the material, including the Internet, other students' work, unpublished materials or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student submitting the work in question to know, understand, and comply with this policy.

Even with a citation, failure to put quotation marks around direct quotations also constitutes plagiarism, because it implies that the writing is your own. Material should either be paraphrased or clearly designated as a quotation. Note that replacing words with synonyms, changing verb tense or other minor alterations do not qualify as paraphrasing.

Feel free to call Jerry Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity, at 505-646-3635 with any questions you may have about NMSU's Non-Discrimination Policy and complaints of discrimination, including sexual harassment.

Feel free to call Michael Armendariz, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, at 505-546-6840 with any questions you may have on student issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.

As the professor, I reserve the right to change any part of the class.
Please keep all returned exams (and other returned work) in the event that you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester.

Extra Credit Grading

Office Visit

40 points

Office Visit: Given the large number of students each semester, I can better ensure adequate progress in the course by speaking to everyone individually. Visiting me during office hours gives me a chance to introduce myself, the criminal justice department, and allow the opportunity to discuss how you are doing. I want to make sure you remain successful at New Mexico State University.

Spring Schedule

Week 1 January 15	Theme: Course Overview Syllabi and Introductions
Week 2 January 20 January 22	Theme: Law Enforcement and Society Start reading Chapter 1 – Focus on Conceptual Definition Finish reading Chapter 1 – Focus on Agents of Social Control
Week 3 January 27 January 29	Theme: History of Law Enforcement Start reading Chapter 2 – Focus on City Policing (NYC, Chicago, Boston, and the South) Finish reading Chapter 2 – Focus on Federal Law Enforcement (FBI, Border Patrol)
Week 4 February 3 February 5	Theme: Contemporary Law Enforcement Start reading Chapter 3 – Focus on Reforms Finish reading Chapter 3 – Focus on Agencies and Size
Week 5 February 10 February 12	Theme: Law Enforcement Overview Finish reading Chapter 4 – Focus on Organization Finish reading Chapter 5 – Focus on Law Enforcement Characteristic Profile
Week 6 February 17 February 19	Theme: On the Job Start reading Chapter 6 – Focus on Behavior and Attitude Profile ----- <i>Assignment One—Due</i> ----- Finish reading Chapter 6 – Focus on Dangers
Week 7 February 24 February 26	Theme: Patrol Start reading Chapter 7 – Focus on Conceptual Definition of Patrol Finish reading Chapter 7 – Focus on Effectiveness of Patrol
Week 8 <i>March 3</i>	Theme: Peace-Keeping and Order Maintenance ----- <i>Midterm Exam</i> -----

March 5 Finish reading Chapter 8 – Focus on Racial Profiling

Week 9 Theme: Gang Units

March 10 Start reading Chapter 9 – Focus on Apprehending Criminal Behavior

March 12 Finish reading Chapter 9 – Focus on Gangs

Week 10 Theme: Aggressive Policing and Zero Tolerance

March 17 Start reading Chapter 10 – Focus on Broken Windows Policing

March 19 Finish reading Chapter 10 – Focus on Zero-Tolerance Policing

Week 11 Theme: Spring Break!!!

March 24 No class

March 26 No class

Week 12 Theme: The Power of Discretion

March 31 Start reading Chapter 11 – Focus on Conceptual Definition of Discretion

April 2 Finish reading Chapter 11 – Focus on Controlling Discretion

Week 13 Theme: Deadly Force

April 7 Start reading Chapter 12 – Focus on Police and Communities of Color

April 9 Finish reading Chapter 12 – Focus on Legalized Violence

Week 14 Theme: Corruption

April 14 Start reading Chapter 13 – Focus on Types of Corruption

-----*Assignment Two—Due*-----

April 16 Finish reading Chapter 13 – Focus on Controlling Corruption

Week 15 Theme: Accountability

April 21 Start reading Chapter 14 – Focus on Internal Affairs

April 23 Finish reading Chapter 14 – Focus on Citizen Oversight

Week 16 Theme: Future of Law Enforcement

April 28 Start reading Chapter 15 – Focus on Technology

April 30 Finish reading Chapter 15 – Focus on Terrorism, Immigration, and Gangs

Final Exam: May 7th at 10:30 am.-----