

Police And Society, 47: 202: 203

3.0 Credits, Fall, 2025

Rutgers University Newark, School of Criminal Justice

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Quovella Maeweather

Email: gs76@scj.rutgers.edu and gmspruill@gmail.com (Please email both simultaneously.)

Class location and time: Online, asynchronous

Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm or By Appointment (email to arrange an appointment)

Course Overview:

The course examines the function of police in contemporary society; the problems arising between citizens and police from the enforcement and non-enforcement of laws are covered in this course. The mechanisms by which social changes impact the law enforcement and order maintenance functions of the police, interactions between the public and the police, and how these interactions impact police legitimacy are major topics that will be discussed.

Prerequisite: None

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals

Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
- 2) Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts

of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.

3) Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.

4) Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.

5) Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

Course Learning Goals:

1. Describe the history of policing in the United States, and analyze how the role of the police has developed and evolved in American society.
2. Critically analyze key components of American policing such as the use of discretion, the development of police subcultures, ethics and policing, and the relationship between policing and technological developments.
3. Articulate the historical roots of policing tactics such as stop and frisk, questioning suspects, the use of force, and search and seizure, and analyze their use in contemporary policing.
4. Analyze the roles and functions of the police in the broader criminal justice system.

Course Materials & Required Readings:

You will be required to read or view (videos or websites) all course materials provided and assigned. I will provide all texts as PDFs on the class Canvas page. You do not need to purchase any books for this class. Many of our readings will come from the book:

Novak, Smith, Cordner & Roberg. 2017. *Police & Society*, 7th Edition. Oxford University Press

Course Requirements:

Students are required to read assigned readings, attend class and participate in classroom discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website (Canvas) regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements.

Canvas Learning Management System: The syllabus, outside readings, and grades will be posted via Blackboard. To access this website, please go to:

Canvas Learning Management System: Log in here: <http://canvas.rutgers.edu>. For help email help@Canvas.rutgers.edu or call (877) 361-1134.

Please update your email information so that you have access to Canvas. All class updates will be posted onto Canvas.

Course Structure:

Course content will be a mixture of traditional lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, video presentations, and on-site visits. Additionally, there will be several in-class activities, exercises and assignments.

II. Course Schedule: (See the Canvas module for materials for each weekly topic.)

Date	Class Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1 Sept 2	Introduction and Course Overview	
Week 2 Sept 7	Police in a Democracy & Police History	
Week 3 Sept 14	Legal Issues	
Week 4 Sept 21	Police Strategies	Quiz #1
Week 5 Sept 28	Police Management	
Week 6 Oct 5	Organizational Change	
Week 7 Oct 12	Selection & Development	Quiz #2
Week 8 Oct 19	Field Operations	
Week 9 Oct 26	Behavior and Misconduct	Quiz #3

Week 10 Nov 2	Force and Coercion	
Week 11 Nov 9	Accountability and Ethics Diversity	Quiz #4
Week 12 Nov 16	Stress and Officer Safety	
Nov 23	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
Week 13 Nov 30	Higher Education Emerging Issues	RESPONSE PAPER
Week 14 Dec 7	FINAL EXAM	

III. Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

- Discussion Boards and Class Participation 30%
- 4 - Quizzes (10% each) 40%
- Response Paper (1) 10%
- Final Exam 20%
- 100 %**

DISCUSSION BOARDS & CLASS PARTICIPATION (TOTAL - 30%)

Each week throughout the course, you will be required to participate in the discussion boards in Canvas. There are multiple steps to successfully completing the discussion boards. Please ensure you complete the following:

1. BY TUESDAY of each week - Respond to at least ONE of the weekly initial prompt or question posted by me. (I will post at least three, but you need to respond to ONE INITIAL prompt or question.) Your response should be a MINIMUM of ONE PARAGRAPH. A PARAGRAPH is 5-7 complete grammatically correct sentences.
2. DURING A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) DAYS EACH WEEK (MON, WED; MON, TUES; WED, THURS, and so on). Respond to a minimum of TWO (2) other students within the class. You should have a discussion with two other students. Your responses should be a MINIMUM OF 2-3 complete grammatically correct sentences. Posting "I Agree" or repeating what

another student posted, is NOT acceptable.

3. Your final post must be submitted by Saturday, at 11:59 pm, ET.

QUIZZES (4): (TOTAL – 40%):

During the semester, you will have four (4) online quizzes, which will assess your knowledge and understanding of specified course materials. The quizzes may contain a combination of multiple choice, short answer and/or essays.

RESPONSE PAPER (1): (TOTAL – 10%):

There will be one (1) response papers (Minimum of 2 pages) during the semester. For each paper, you will be provided with a designated topic and/or article for a designated topic from the covered chapters. For each response paper, you will be required to select an approved article. The essay should discuss and analyze the key issues and concepts in the reading assignments.

This assignment must be typed, double spaced throughout, Times New Roman or Arial font, 12 pt font size, with 1-inch margins. These short papers must include at least 2 peer reviewed sources cited in the proper APA format, which may include the textbook, unless instructed otherwise by the instructor. You will be required to attach a cover page and bibliography of these sources at the end of the paper in APA style, this page does not count towards the page requirements. **Papers must be submitted in Canvas before 11:59 p.m., ET on the specified due date.**

FINAL EXAM: (TOTAL – 20%):

At the end of the semester, a final exam to assess your knowledge and understanding of specified course materials. The quizzes may contain a combination of multiple choice, short answer and/or essays.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A	90–100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due on the scheduled dates. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules

All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university's policy will result in appropriate action.

Academic Resources

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield
Director of ADA Services and Academic Support
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.353.5300
Fax: 973.353.5666
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu
Website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Psychological and Counseling Services

If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university's psychological and counseling service center (<http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>; 973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers.

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals Experiencing Disability: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the RU-N ODS website (ods.newark.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-5063 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Short-term Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 Students requesting a letter of verification should submit information using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/Verification>.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/RUNReportingForm>.

For support related to Interpersonal Violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does not have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/RUNReportingForm> or emailing careteam@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Psychological Support (Stress, Mood, Family Issues, Substance Use concerns and other personal challenges): The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center provides individual therapy and support groups for students dealing with psychological issues. To schedule an appointment, email counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or call (973) 353-5805. Additional support is available through Uwill services:

- Uhelp: Crisis support at 833-646-1526 (available 24/7/365).
- Urise: Wellness-based video collection with a free account.
- Umatch: Teletherapy with flexible scheduling, starting with a free account.

Access Uwill@RUN at <https://my.rutgers.edu> using your netid.

Services are confidential and free. For emergencies, call 911 or Rutgers University Police Department at (973) 353-5111.

If you are interested in finding out more about

- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S./M.A.)
- Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

Please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website <http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/>

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ_apps

