

Syllabus
AJ 341 - Police Methods & Organization
Fall, 2009
MWF 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.
Southern Hall # 214

Instructor: R. Alan Thompson, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: MWF 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment when necessary.

Course Purpose & Objectives

An Introduction to law enforcement, its history, development and methods of policing. The class has been structured to familiarize students with the fundamental operations, duties, responsibilities, organization and administration of the American police.

Required Text

Hess, wroblewski, Dempsey, Forst & Bennett (2009). Police Methods & Organization (custom published text). Cengage.

Course Requirements

Exams:

Number, Weight and Material Covered - There will be three exams throughout the semester. Each test is worth 33.33% of the final grade.

Format - Exams may consist of true / false, multiple choice, short-answer and essay format questions. Questions on each exam will only cover materials presented, discussed or distributed since the previous exam. The only exception to this general rule is that short-answer and essay questions may be cumulative in nature. Short-answer questions will require a one-half page response, while each essay question will require a two page response.

Make-up Policy - No make-up exams will be offered unless the student contacts the instructor **prior to the test**. In such instances, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request for a make-up exam. Consideration will be given to legitimate, exigent circumstances. In the event that a make-up is allowed, the instructor reserves the right to change the format of the exam, either in whole or part.

Required Materials - Exams will be administered on a Scantron form #882. It is the student's responsibility to bring this form, along with a #2 pencil, to class on the day of a test. Paper will be provided by the instructor for the written portion of the exam.

Appropriate Test-taking Behavior - During the exam, all materials, purses and book bags are to remain closed directly under the student's seat. Once the test is distributed, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the room unless they are completely finished with the test and have submitted it to the instructor. Any talking between students once the first test has been distributed will be considered a prima-facie case of cheating and will result

in a grade of zero (0) being assigned to those involved for the test. Students who arrive to class late after the test has been distributed will not be allowed to enter the room or take the exam.

Attendance Policy and Classroom Behavior:

Successful learning and understanding requires regular attendance and active participation in class discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly using a variety of methods including, but not limited to, roll call, sign-in sheets and pop quizzes. Since quizzes are intended to reward attendance, they may not be made up if missed. It is understood that, due to circumstances beyond the student's control, absence from class may be unavoidable. In the event that a student must miss class, (s)he is expected to contact the instructor prior to the scheduled class meeting. The instructor may require students to provide documentation pertaining to the absence. Each student is expected to be in the classroom ready to begin class on time and remain until the end of the session. If the student is unable to meet this expectation, (s)he will be counted as absent for the day unless the instructor is notified in advance and approval is given. Students who accumulate more than three absences during the semester will be ineligible to receive full credit for this portion of the final course grade. Conversely, those students who attend class regularly and make meaningful contributions to classroom discussion will be considered eligible to receive full credit for this portion of the final grade.

Private conversation between two or more students during class time is often considered impolite and disruptive behavior. In the event that private conversations reach such a point, the students will be required to leave the classroom and recorded as absent that day.

Only those students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom during the scheduled period.

Students will observe policies prohibiting food, drinks, or tobacco products in the classroom.

No cellular phones or pagers will be allowed in class.

The use of recording devices in class is strictly prohibited unless instructor approval is obtained in advance.

Students are strongly encouraged to arrive to class on time and not leave until dismissed by the instructor.

Course Requirements at a Glance

Tests (three at 33.33% each) 100%

Grading Scale

100 - 90	A
89 - 80	B
79 - 70	C
69 - 60	D
Below 59	F

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The university and its official representatives, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

“Cheating” includes: 1) Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs; 2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; 3) Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; 4) Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test; 5) Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test; 6) Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test, and; 7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

“Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work into one’s own work offered for credit.

“Collusion” means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

“Abuse of Resource Materials” means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course material.

Students suspected of engaging in any of the above behaviors will be subject to the University’s disciplinary procedures (up to and including expulsion from the program and the University) and will also receive a final grade of “F” for the course.

Disability Services Statement:

If a student has a disability which qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing address: 118 College Drive, # 8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; Telephone: (601) 266-5024; TTY: (601) 266-6837; Fax: (601) 266-6035.

Important Dates to Remember

9/1	Last day to drop w/o financial penalty
9/7	No Class
9/30	Last day to drop w/o academic penalty
10/9	No Class
10/25-27	No Class
12/8	Final Exam 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Tentative Course Schedule

8/19 – Review of Syllabus	10/14 – Police Discretion
8/21 – Police in American Society	10/16 – Police Discretion
8/24 – Police in American Society	10/19 – Police Discretion
8/26 – History of Police	10/21 – Review for Exam 2
8/28 – History of Police	10/23 – Exam 2
8/31 – History of Police	10/26 – History of Sup Ct Involvement in Policing
9/2 – History of Police	10/28 – The Fourth Amendment
9/4 – Personnel Issues	10/30 – Exceptions to the Fourth Amendment
9/9 – Personnel Issues	11/2– Searches Incident to Lawful Arrest
9/11 – Personnel Issues	11/4 – Vehicle Searches
9/14 – Personnel Issues	11/6 – Plain View Searches
9/16 – Review for Exam 1	11/9 – Consent Searches
9/18 – Exam 1	11/11 – Exigent Circumstances
9/21 – Police Operations	11/13 – Field Interrogations
9/23 – Police Operations	11/16 – Miranda
9/25 – Police Operations	11/18 – Miranda
9/28 – Police Operations	11/20 – Miranda / The Exclusionary Rule
9/30 – Police Culture	11/23 – The Exclusionary Rule
10/2 – Police Culture	11/30 – The Exclusionary Rule
10/5 – Police Culture	12/2 – Review for Final Exam
10/7 – Police Culture	12/8 – Final Exam 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
10/12 – Police Discretion	