

**Seminar in Contemporary Policing**  
**CJUS 5350.001**  
**Spring 2023**

**Professor Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

Graduate Catalog Course Description: Survey of classical and recent literature in policing. Studies of the trends, issues and reform movements currently prominent in the field of policing.

This course focuses on some of the seminal articles in the policing literature. It also emphasizes “what works” in policing through the use of a course text on evidence-based policing as well as a case study of the much-discussed precipitous decline in crime in New York City in the 1990s.

**Course Objectives**

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

- Discuss the history of American policing
- Discuss the evolution of police strategies, particularly in terms of how the functions of crime control, order maintenance, and service provision have been prioritized
- Discuss some of the most significant pieces of police research and the current state of police strategy literature
- Recognize “what works” in policing through the assessment of the evidence-based policing literature
- Identify current trends in policing in terms of technology, accountability, management, and function

**Required Texts**

Kappeler, V.E. and B.P. Schaefer. (2019). *The Police & Society: Touchstone Readings* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Lum, C. and C.S. Koper. (2017). *Evidence-Based Policing: Translating Research into Practice*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Zimring, F.E. (2012). *The City that Became Safe: New York's Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

These texts are required for all students enrolled in the class and are the only required texts for the course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Schedule.

### **Course Requirements**

There are a total of 560 points that students can earn in this class: 2 exams (100 points each, for a total of 200 points); 4 assignments (50 points each, for a total of 200 points); 4 discussions (20 points each, for a total of 80 points); and, 4 chapter/article outlines (20 points each, for a total of 80 points). The grading scale and descriptions of the assessment measures are described below.

### **Grading Scale**

504 – 560 points = A

448 – 503 points = B

392 – 447 points = C

336 – 391 points = D

Below 336 points = F

*I do not offer extra credit in this course.*

***PLEASE NOTE: I DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE ABOVE GRADING SCALE EVEN IF YOU ARE ONLY ONE POINT AWAY FROM THE NEXT LETTER GRADE.***

### **Exams (200 points total)**

*There will be 2 online exams for this class which will be available on the course site in Canvas when they are released.* The exams will consist of essay questions and are worth a maximum of 100 points each. Each test will cover assigned material in the classroom texts. ***You may use your textbooks and all course materials while completing the exams.*** The exams are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the textbooks and course materials. Therefore, I expect your exam responses to reflect your own individual and independent knowledge and work, without assistance from any other person. The exams themselves should not be copied or duplicated by you or anyone else for any purpose whatsoever. The university rules concerning academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

The exams will be included in the related course materials in Canvas, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Grading rubrics will be utilized for the exams so students can identify how their exams will be graded.

Students who do not complete any exam during the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the exam. *Exam grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable exam period closes.*

### **Assignments (200 points total)**

*There will be 4 online assignments for this class which will be available on the course site in Canvas when they are released.* The assignments will consist of essay/short-answer questions and are worth a maximum of 50 points each. The assignments are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the textbooks and course materials. Therefore, I expect your assignments to reflect your own individual and independent knowledge and work, without assistance from any other person. ***You may use your textbooks and all course materials while completing the assignments.*** The assignments themselves should not be copied or duplicated by you or anyone else for any purpose whatsoever. The university rules concerning academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

The assignments will be included in the related course materials in Canvas, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Grading rubrics will be utilized for the assignments so students can identify how their assignments will be graded.

Students who do not complete any assignment during the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the assignment. *Assignment grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable assignment period closes.*

### **Discussions (80 points total)**

*There will be 4 online discussions for this class which will be available on the course site in Canvas when they are released.* ***You may use your textbooks and all course materials while completing the discussion boards.***

The discussions will be included in the related course materials in Canvas, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Grading rubrics will be utilized for the discussions so students can identify how their discussions will be graded.

Your discussions will be graded on depth of explanation, utilization of outside sources, specific efforts to back up your arguments with logical points and sources, integration of material from the textbooks, grammar and spelling, and adhering to the discussion requirements. In order to receive full credit you must post an original response and respond to at least 1 other students' post. Note that you will NOT be able to see any other students' posts until you have first posted a thread yourself.

The discussions will ask you to provide your own posting and respond to the posting of at least 1 other student. Each discussion submission should be thorough and well-written and *at least 3 paragraphs long*. Responses to other students should be *at least 1 paragraph long*. Each discussion will be worth a maximum of 20 points – up to 15 points for your posting and up to 5 points for your response to another student's posting. The discussions are designed to extend your knowledge and understanding of the class materials and provide a vehicle to apply such knowledge and understanding.

Students who do not complete any discussion within the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the discussion. *Discussion grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable discussion period closes.*

### **Chapter/Article Outlines (80 points total)**

*There will be 4 chapter/article outlines for this class.* Refer to the chapter/article outline list passed out in class and posted on the course site in Canvas to identify the chapters/articles in which you are responsible and when they are due. Submit each chapter/article outline to me via email (fritsch@unt.edu) as an attached Word document and I will confirm receipt. I will post each chapter/article outline on the course site in Canvas.

The format of each chapter/article outline is your decision. They can be in outline format, paragraph format, bullet point format, or other preferred format. The chapter/article outline should include comprehensive coverage of the key points in the chapter/article and a minimum of three questions about the article to facilitate class discussion. You will present your chapter/article outline to the class and use the questions for class discussion.

Each chapter/article outline will be worth a maximum of 20 points. The chapter/article outlines will be graded based on the quality of the outline and class presentation along the following parameters: 20 points – Excellent; 14 points – Satisfactory; 8 points – Poor.

Students who do not submit any chapter/article outline by the deadline in the Course Schedule will receive a zero for the chapter/article outline. *Chapter/article outline grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable deadline.*

## **General Class Policies**

### **Communication:**

I will return emails and voicemails within 48 hours during Monday-Friday. If you do not receive a response from me during that period, assume that I did not receive your communication and contact me again. You are, of course, also welcome to communicate with me in person in Chilton Hall 265 by appointment.

If you are having technical or technological issues regarding the course, your first communication should be with the help desk at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940-565-2324. The technicians there have the expertise to help you resolve your issues.

### **Syllabus Change:**

I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that it must be modified. In the case that it needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments to the class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student's responsibility to check announcements/notifications/emails so that any and all changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements/notifications/emails does not constitute a basis for a missed applicable change.

### **Release of Coursework:**

The coursework will be released on the course site in Canvas according to the Course Schedule.

### **Late Policy:**

Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, discussions, and chapter/article outlines, *coursework deadline extensions are not granted. A zero will be awarded for any coursework that is submitted late or not turned in at all during the scheduled time period.* However, students with absences that are authorized pursuant to university policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences **and** that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which the coursework could be done), should

contact me and provide documentation *prior to any due date* in order for such absence to receive any consideration.

*Individual technical or technological difficulties in completing coursework in a timely manner (e.g., computer crashes or viruses or interrupted internet connections) do not constitute a basis to request a coursework deadline extension.* To avoid such issues, I encourage you to not wait until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned coursework.

### **Course Etiquette:**

The seminar format provides the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss issues and exchange ideas. Your communication with me and your fellow students in this seminar format should be appropriate to the course and respectful of the opinions of others. Engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in this course may result in your dismissal from this class, as provided in university policy.

### **Posting of Grades:**

Students can access their grades via the *Grades* tab on the course page in Canvas. *Coursework grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable coursework period closes.*

### **Academic Integrity:**

The university rules (UNT Policy 06.003) concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. *Your work on exams, assignments, discussions, and chapter/article outlines should be your own individual and independent work. These are not group projects. You should not consult other persons when completing coursework.*

### **Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties:**

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time window for coursework submission.

### **SPOT (Student Perception of Teaching):**

You will have the opportunity to complete the SPOT survey at the end of the semester and share your thoughts about the course. I value the feedback that I receive from the SPOT survey and strongly encourage you to participate by completing the survey in this class and all your classes.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet (i.e., electronically, phone, or in person) with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, see the Office of Disability Access website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Intellectual Property Statement:**

Some of the material provided in this course is my personal intellectual property or that of the university. You may not use this material for anything other than class purposes.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures:**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### Course Schedule

Class Meeting Date	Activity	Activity Due Date/Time
<b>Week 1</b> January 19	Class Introduction	
<b>Week 2</b> January 26	Read Articles 1-5 Kappeler & Schaefer book: <i>The Police &amp; Society</i>	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday January 26 at 9AM
<b>Week 3</b> February 2	Read Articles 6-11 Kappeler & Schaefer book: <i>The Police &amp; Society</i>	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday February 2 at 9AM
<b>Week 4</b> February 9	Read Articles 12-17 Kappeler & Schaefer book: <i>The Police &amp; Society</i>  Complete Discussion 1 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday February 6)	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday February 9 at 9AM  <b>Discussion 1</b> due by Sunday February 12 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 5</b> February 16	Read Articles 18-24 Kappeler & Schaefer book: <i>The Police &amp; Society</i>	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday February 16 at 9AM
<b>Week 6</b> <i>No Class Meeting on February 23</i>	Complete Assignment 1 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday February 20)	<b>Assignment 1</b> due by Sunday February 26 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 7</b> March 2	Read Articles 25-30 Kappeler & Schaefer book: <i>The Police &amp; Society</i>  Complete Discussion 2 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday February 27)	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday March 2 at 9AM  <b>Discussion 2</b> due by Sunday March 5 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 8</b> <i>No Class Meeting on March 9</i>	Complete Exam 1 over Kappeler & Schaefer book (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday March 6)	<b>Exam 1</b> due by Sunday March 12 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 9</b> <i>No Class Meeting on March 23</i>	Complete Assignment 2 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday March 20)	<b>Assignment 2</b> due by Sunday March 26 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 10</b> March 30	Read Chapters 1-5 Zimring book: <i>The City that Became Safe</i>	<b>Outlines</b> due by Thursday March 30 at 9AM



<b>Week 11</b> April 6	Read Chapters 6-8 Zimring book: <i>The City that Became Safe</i>  Complete Discussion 3 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday April 3)	<b><i>Outlines</i></b> due by Thursday April 6 at 9AM  <b><i>Discussion 3</i></b> due by Sunday April 9 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 12</b> April 13	Read Chapters 1-3 Lum & Koper book: <i>Evidence-Based Policing</i>  Complete Assignment 3 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday April 10)	<b><i>Outlines</i></b> due by Thursday April 13 at 9AM  <b><i>Assignment 3</i></b> due by Sunday April 16 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 13</b> April 20	Read Chapters 4-7 Lum & Koper book: <i>Evidence-Based Policing</i>	<b><i>Outlines</i></b> due by Thursday April 20 at 9AM
<b>Week 14</b> <i>No Class Meeting on April 27</i>	Complete Assignment 4 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday April 24)	<b><i>Assignment 4</i></b> due by Sunday April 30 at 11:59PM
<b>Week 15</b> May 4	Read Chapters 8-15 Lum & Koper book: <i>Evidence-Based Policing</i>  Complete Discussion 4 (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday May 1)	<b><i>Outlines</i></b> due by Thursday May 4 at 9AM  <b><i>Discussion 4</i></b> due by Sunday May 7 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 16</b> <i>No Class Meeting on May 11</i>	Complete Exam 2 over Zimring and Lum & Koper books (available in Canvas at 8AM on Monday May 8)	<b><i>Exam 2</i></b> due by Thursday May 11 at 11:59 pm