# Police Systems

# CJUS 2300 Section 400

**Fall 2025**

## **Instructor:** Dr. Rachael Rief

## **Office**: Chilton Hall 265

**Dates:** August 18-December 11

**Contact Information:** rachael.rief@unt.edu; 940-369-7682 (office)

**Office Hours:** Office hours are Thursdays 1-3 PM in-person or by appointment.

**Meeting Time:** MoWeFr 10:00-10:50

**Meeting Location:** WH 116

**Preferred Communication**

For questions, please first message the Graduate Student Assistant, Mr. Heriberto Ramirez (Heriberto.Ramirez@unt.edu). When emailing please put the course number (CJUS 2300) in the subject. Email only from your UNT email (name@unt.edu) and copy your instructor in the email (insert Rachael.Rief@unt.edu into the CC line)

**Course Description**

This course explores the evolution, structure, and operations of modern police systems, examining key aspects of law enforcement from historical perspectives to contemporary challenges. Students will analyze policing strategies, organizational structures, fundamental police work, and emerging technologies while considering the ethical and practical challenges faced by law enforcement.

**Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

* Recognize the role of law enforcement and challenges of policing a free society
* Identify the major eras of policing and the influence each era has had on police organization and operations
* Compare and contrast the characteristics and structure of modern police agencies
* Recognize the fundamental aspects of police work including (1) police recruitment, selection, and training, (2) police patrol, (3) crime detection and investigation, (4) police discretion and its control, and (5) the law of search, seizure, and self-incrimination
* Assess the hazards of police work including stress, use of force, misconduct, and corruption
* Identify the characteristics of modern policing strategies including community-oriented policing, problem-oriented policing, intelligence-led policing, and evidence-based policing
* Examine contemporary and future police technologies

## **Required Materials**

## Textbook:

Steven G. Brandl. *Police in America,* 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Sage, 2024.

**Course Notes and Recommendations**

* Major course announcements will be made in Canvas. I advise you check the announcements section frequently.
* Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, changes, announcements, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary.
* **Before you message Mr. Ramirez or Dr. Rief with a question, make sure to review this syllabus, schedule and welcome statement. Most questions are answered in these documents.**

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on 2 Chapter quizzes, 2 Writing assignments, and 3 Exams. There are a total of 430 points that can be earned in this class. The dates for each exam and quiz are listed in the course schedule on canvas.

**Final Grades will be determined based upon the following:**

* Exams (100 points each x 3) 300 pts
* Reading Quizzes (25 points each x 2) 50 pts
* Assignments (30 points each x 2) 60 pts
* Attendance 10 pts
* Participation 10 pts

**Total 430 pts**

|  |
| --- |
| **Points Breakdown by Letter Grade** |
| Letter  | Points Required |
| A  | 387 – 430 |
| B  | 344 – 386 |
| C  | 301 – 343 |
| D  | 258 – 300 |
| F  | 0 – 257 |

**Writing Assignments (40 Points Possible)**: Each student will be required to complete 2 writing assignments (worth 40 points each; 80 points total) throughout the course. More details will be provided later. If you use the assigned reading or other outside sources to support your answers, appropriately cite those source using [APA style](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html). Grades will be based on a rubric, accessible on Canvas for each assignment.

**Chapter Quizzes (50 Points Possible):** There will be 2 reading quizzes assigned throughout the semester (worth 25 points each; 50 points total). Dates for when each is available can be found on the course schedule.

**Exams (300 Points Possible):** There will be 3 exams given (worth 100 points each; 300 points total). Each exam contains 50 multiple choice questions. Dates for each Exam can be found on the course schedule in Canvas. Your exam may consist of multiple choice or true/false questions or short answer questions. Exams will be in person. Each exam will cover the preceding chapters and readings. I will provide exam details prior to each exam. You can prepare for exams by taking notes on the readings and lectures.

**Assigned Reading:** Reading assignments are noted in the Course Schedule. All students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the date specified in the Course Schedule. The assigned readings will serve as a foundation for the discussion of the issues in discussion boards and on exams.

**Attendance and Participation (20 points):** Attendance and participation will count toward your overall grade and are essential for success in this course. You are allowed 4 unexcused absences throughout the semester before your attendance and participation grade will be negatively affected. Beginning with the 5th unexcused absence, each additional absence will result in further grade reduction. While I will track attendance on Canvas, it is your responsibility to monitor your own absence count to avoid exceeding the 4-absence limit. Excused absences (illness, university activities, emergencies, etc.) require appropriate documentation and do not count toward this limit.

**Classroom & University Policy**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance during the course is required and will be tracked. Students are allowed four (4) unexcused absences throughout the semester. Please follow the policy as listed below for additional absences:

Absences are authorized for the following reasons: a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; active military service, including travel for that purpose; participation in an official university function; illness or other extenuating circumstances; pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and when the University is officially closed by the President. Students who wish to request an excused absence can do so and will be excused from class as long as they make a request as early as possible and within the required time frame set by the University (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused absence.

**Make-Up Policy:** There will be no opportunities to make up any missed coursework with the exception of authorized absences according to University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Students should notify me prior to missing an assignment, if possible. Those who are absent for reasons described above like religious holidays and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up assignments if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused.

**Academic Honesty/Integrity:** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any evidence of academic dishonesty including plagiarism and cheating of any kind will result in immediate failure of the course.

* **A Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence:** 'AI-assisted writing' is distinguished from 'AI-generated writing’ for this course. AI-assisted writing is permitted in in the form of development and advancement in the writing process. AI-assisted writing may include brainstorming and refining your ideas, finding information on a topic, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts and checking grammar and style. AI-generated writing means there has been little or no involvement from the student as the author, with most of the writing generated by an AI. **Using an AI to generate writing or compositions without substantial original contribution from a student is NOT acceptable or allowed.** If AI generated writing or composition is suspected, students may be required to meet with the instructor to revisit the course policy, recomplete the assignment, and write a reflection on the ethical concerns of AI generated writing and how it has impacted their learning process.

AI-assisted writing in any form should still be accompanied by a disclosure statement. That disclosure statement should specify how an AI tools assisted you in the writing process and can be placed at the end of your word document. You should also cite any AI tools used. See this [webpage](https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/c.php?g=1371380&p=10135074) for information on how to cite AI tools. Please see the instructor for any further questions regarding ethical use of generative AI tools.

**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.

**ADA accommodation statement:** The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable 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 a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**Retention of Student Records:** Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

**Grade Appeals:** Please keep all your graded work. You cannot, under any circumstance, dispute a grade on an exam or assignment if you cannot provide the original copy. Should you have any discrepancy with a grade you receive, you must submit a written complaint and meet with me within one week of receiving the grade. Bring the original copy of the exam or assignment to this meeting. Written complaints must address specific comments and/or grading criteria. Filing an appeal does not guarantee that your grade will be changed. **Grades are not verbally negotiable.**

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates:** Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (noreply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

**Student Behavior and University Policy:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

**Syllabus Changes:** 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 the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus 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/email so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

**Miscellaneous:** The material posted online is my personal intellectual property or that of the University of North Texas. You may not utilize the material for other than class purposes.

**Fall 2025 Police Systems Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings**  | **Assignments** |
| 1 | 8/18-8/22 | Introduction to Police in America | Chapter 1 |  |
| 2 | 8/25-8/29 | The History of the Police in America & The Characteristics and Structure of Police Organizations | Chapters 2 and 3 |  |
|  3 | 9/1 | **\*No Class – Labor Day\*** |  |  |
| 9/3-9/5 | The Role of the Police | Chapter 4 | Reading Quiz 1 Friday 9/5 |
| 4 | 9/8-9/12 | Police Recruitment, Selection, and Training | Chapter 5 |  |
| 5 | 9/15-9/19 | Police Patrol | Chapter 6 | Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5) Friday 9/19 |
| 6 | 9/22-9/26 | Crime Detection and Investigation | Chapter 7 |  |
| 7 | 9/29-10/1 | Police Discretion and Its Control | Chapter 8 |  |
| 10/3 | **\*No Class – Assignment 1 Due Friday 9/26 at 11:59 PM \*** |
| 8 | 10/6-10/10 | The Law of Search, Seizure, and Self-Incrimination | Chapter 9 |  |
| 9 | 10/13-10/17 | Health and Safety Issues in Police Work | Chapter 10 | Exam 2 (Chapters 6-9) Friday 10/17 |
| 10 | 10/20-10/24 | The Police Use of Force | Chapter 11 |  |
| 11 | 10/27-10/31 | Police Misconduct and Corruption **\*Guest Speaker 10/27\*** | Chapter 12  | Reading Quiz 2 Friday 10/31 |
| 12 | 11/3-11/5 | Community and Problem-Oriented Policing | Chapter 13 |  |
|  | 11/7 | **\*No Class – Assignment 2 Due Friday 11/7 at 11:59 PM \*** |
| 13 | 11/10-11/14 | **\*No Class – Instructor out of Town\***  |  |
| 14 | 11/17-11/21 | Evidence-Based and Intelligence-Led Policing & Crime, Technology, and Future of American Policing **\*Guest Speaker 11/19 \*** | Chapters 14 and 15 |  |
| 15 | 11/24-11/28 | **\*No Class – Thanksgiving Break\*** |
| 16 | 12/1-12/5 | **\*No Class – Final Exam Preparation Week\*** |
| 17 | 12/8-12/12 | **Final Exam (Chapters 10-15) \*Date and Time TBA\*** |

\*\***Note:** This is a tentative syllabus. I reserve the right to modify this schedule.