

SOC 330**Police in Democratic Societies**

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Office: Chafee 504
Hours: Tu, Th: 11-12, 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

Description and Objectives. The police are a critical institution in contemporary democratic societies, being the only agency authorized to use coercive force against the citizenry. This course will examine the origins and development of the contemporary police institution; its formal and informal structures and functions; problems associated with police discretion and accountability; and current innovations. The focus will be on the United States but comparisons and contrasts will be made with police in other democratic societies such as England, France, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Japan.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain why policing emerged as a distinct institution when it did.
2. Trace the development of the police in the United States since the 19th century.
3. Identify and distinguish among the functions of the major types of police agencies.
4. Describe the structure typical of police agencies in different settings and with different missions.
5. Distinguish between the formal and informal cultures of policing
6. Identify the major environmental factors influencing the operation of an urban police department
7. Summarize landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court regarding police procedure.
8. Discuss the impact of these landmark decisions on actual police operations.
9. Summarize evidence with respect to the effectiveness of police operations such as patrol and investigation.
10. Describe new innovations in policing such as community policing and problem-oriented policing.
11. Assess evidence regarding the success of recent innovations in policing/
12. Summarize evidence with respect to the extent and degree of police misconduct.
13. Identify and describe the most common means of holding the police accountable to the public.
14. Assess evidence with respect to the effectiveness of the more common means of holding the police accountable.
15. Compare and contrast general features of policing in the United States with those in another country

Texts. The text for the course is listed below. In addition to the text, students will be required to read a number of articles and cases that will be on WebCT.

Samuel Walker and Charles M. Katz. *The Police In America: An Introduction* (6th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Examinations. Two in-class tests and a comprehensive final examination are scheduled. Each will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The in-class tests will be scheduled for **October 2** and **November 6**. The final examination will be given at the time scheduled by Enrollment Services. Sample questions will be posted on WebCT a few days before each test.

Class Attendance and Participation. Class attendance and participation is expected, and will be counted in determining the final grade. Absences are excused only for valid reasons such as illness or mandatory participation in a university sponsored event. For an absence to be excused, I must be notified by phone or e-mail prior to the class(es) and provided with documentation upon your return to the class. Note, however, that showing up for class is the minimal requirement.

To do well in this course, you must take good class notes. An outline of each lecture will be posted on WebCT a day or two before the class. This is not a substitute for being present and attentive in class. I strongly advise that you print each outline, bring it to class and use it as a guide to following lectures and as an aid in taking notes.

A good portion of each class will be devoted to discussions. You are expected to be an active participant in these discussions by raising questions and offering your opinions and viewpoints. At all times you must be respectful of the opinions and viewpoints of all other students.

On-line Discussions. On Mondays and Wednesdays of each week, I will post one or more questions for on-line discussion on WebCT. These discussions will remain open for postings until an hour or so before class. During that time, you may post several responses and are advised to do so. However, responses should take into consideration those posted earlier. For example, a student who is the tenth person responding should respond not only to the original question but also reference some of the other responses that have been posted previously. Students who have posted responses should also check later in the day and respond to some of those who have referenced their earlier posting

Postings will be graded on the basis coherence and logic, strength of the evidence employed, and proper grammar and spelling according to the following scale:

5 points: a coherent and well-written posting that makes use of credible evidence and makes a substantive contribution to the discussion such as by presenting an original point of view and/or challenging the ideas expressed by another;

3 points: a well-written posting that merely expresses an opinion with little or no use of evidence or which does not make a substantive contribution to the discussion;

1 point: a poorly written posting that merely expresses an opinion that does not make a substantive contribution to the discussion and which presents no evidence to support the opinion.

Feedback will be provided to postings that are poorly written, and students who write poorly may be required to participate in additional discussions.

Note that to earn the full credit you will need to complete at least ten (10) postings.

Term Paper. Each student will be required to complete a research paper on the police in another country. The papers are to address questions such how the police in that country are organized, what are their primary functions, what powers do they have, what are the constitutional restraints on their authority, what are their relations with the community, what major problems are they currently facing and how are they coping with these problems. To assist you in getting started, several books have been placed on reserve for this course. I will also provide you with a handout that will illustrate the the style for citations and bibliography that you are to follow. Papers are due no later than **December 2**.

Papers will be graded using the following guidelines:

Excellent: Provides the educated reader a solid base of knowledge of the police in the country. Research uses a considerable number of sources beyond those placed on reserve. Organization is clear and easily followed by the reader. Sources are properly cited in the required style. Few, if any, errors in vocabulary, spelling or grammar.

Acceptable: Provides the educated reader some knowledge about the police in the country but lacks either depth or breadth. Research involves only a few sources beyond those on reserve. Organization is generally clear but there are points at which the reader must work to follow. Some minor errors in documentation and/or style. A number of minor errors in vocabulary, spelling and grammar.

Unacceptable: Provides the educated reader little or no knowledge about the police in the country. Research uses no sources beyond those on reserve. Organization is poor making the reader work hard to follow it. Sources are not properly documented and/or required style is not followed. Many serious errors in vocabulary, spelling and grammar.

Grades. Final grades will be based on a 500 point scale with the various graded exercises weighted as follows:

In-class exams	100 points	20%
Final Exam	200 points	40%
Term Paper	100 points	20%
On-line Discussions	50 points	10%
Attendance and Participation	50 points	10%

Extra Credit. Up to 50 points extra credit may be earned by completing internet exercises listed at the end of each chapter in Walker and Katz. Exercises must be typed and submitted on the date that chapter is to be treated in class. Each exercise can earn up to 10 points; no more than five may be completed.

Cheating. Although you are encouraged to consult with others, for instance having your papers read and critiqued by others, all work submitted for a grade is to be your own. Material taken from other sources that is not common knowledge must be footnoted even if it is not quoted directly. Providing another student with information about an exam and/or allowing someone to copy from your work is considered as serious as securing the information or copying the work. Cheating of any kind will be severely penalized.

Accommodation. Any student with a certified disability that is likely to affect their performance on any or all of these assignments should contact me to arrange for accommodations, as should students whose primary language is not English.

Course Outline		
Date	Topic	Assignment
pt. 4	Introduction and Overview	-----
Sept. 9	Sociology and the Study of Policing	W&K, ch. 1
Sept. 11	No Class- professional meeting	-----
Sept. 16	Origins of Modern Policing	W&K, pp. 22-40
Sept. 18	Three Eras of Policing in the U. S.	W&K, pp. 40-55
Sept. 23	The Law Enforcement Industry	W&K, pp. 60-85
Sept. 25	The Structure of Police Organizations	W&K, pp. 91-100
Sept. 30	Police Organizations and Their Environment	W&K, pp. 100-115
Oct. 2	Test 1	All Above
Oct. 7	The Legal Environment: The Power to Search	Cases On WebCT
Oct. 9	The Legal Environment: The Power to Seize	Cases On WebCT
Oct. 14	The Legal Environment: Interrogation	Cases On WebCT
Oct. 16	The Functions and Effectiveness of Patrol	W&K, pp. 198-231
Oct. 21	Peacekeeping and Order Maintenance	W&K, pp. 236-265
Oct. 23	Law Enforcement and Criminal Investigation	W&K, pp. 272-191
Oct. 28	Policing Drugs, Guns and Terrorism	W&K, pp. 292-308
Oct. 30	Test 2	All Since Test 1
Nov. 4	No Class—Election Day	-----
Nov. 6	Innovations in Policing: Community Policing	W&K, pp. 315-335
Nov. 11	No Class—Veterans' Day	-----
Nov. 12	Innovations in Policing: Problem-Oriented	W&K, pp. 335-351
Nov. 13	Police Discretion: Use, Abuse and Control	W&K, pp. 358-379
Nov. 18	Police-Community Relations	W&K, pp. 386-415
Nov. 20	Racial Profiling	W&K, pp. 415-436
Nov. 25	Police Accountability: Internal Mechanisms	W&K, pp. 476-488
Nov. 27	No Class—Thanksgiving Day	-----

Dec. 2	Police Accountabilty: External Mechanisms Term Papers Due	W&K, pp. 488-509
Dec. 9	The Future of Policing	W&K, pp. 520-539