

Sociology of Law Enforcement
Sociology 362
LA 207
Larry D. Mansch
Sociology 319
Office Hours: T, Th: 2:00-3:30 pm
274-4116

Course Objective:

This course offers a sociological analysis of American law enforcement. We will study the structure, role, and processes of law enforcement in modern societies. Law enforcement is viewed as a formal, institutional structure of social control that is a product of historical development as well as cultural, social, and political influences. Thus, we will examine how and why policing developed as a mechanism of social control and the social and cultural forces that influence the way in which the police perform their role:

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you will:

- Understand the history of American law enforcement and why it developed as a formal means of social control.
- Be aware of the strategies and tactics that are used by the police to maintain and manage their roles in society.
- Become familiar with the internal issues that influence the attitudes and opinions of the police.
- Learn about the issues that the police face in the day-to-day interactions that they have with the public and how these are changing in contemporary society.

Required Text:

Cox, Steven M., David Massey, Connie M. Koski, Brian D. Fitch. 2020. Introduction to Policing. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Student Study Site: edge.sagepub.com/coxpolicing4e/access OR

<https://edge.sagepub.com/coxpolicing4e1/student-resources/chapter-1/learning-objectives>

Expectations and Requirements:

1. Assigned Reading: You should come to class having read the assigned readings. This will allow you to more fully understand and engage in the material presented in class.
2. Discussion: Participation in class discussions is essential.
3. Quizzes: There will be occasional quizzes throughout the semester – likely no more than one per text chapter.
4. Exams: There are five non-cumulative exams, one for each section of the text. Most questions will be T/F and multiple choice. Terms in bold will always be included. There will be one final exam at the end of the semester. Exams cannot be redone. There are no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Academic Honesty and Integrity (UM Official Statement):

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university. All students must be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. This code is available for review online at

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfmpage/1321>.

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Part I Foundations of Policing

Chapter 1: Policing in the United States

Chapter 2: A Brief History of Police in the United States

Chapter 3: Police Organization and Administration

Part II Police Operations

Chapter 4: Recruitment and Selection of Police Officers

Chapter 5: Police Training and Education

Chapter 6: Police Work: Operations and Functions

Chapter 7: Contemporary Strategies in Policing

Part III Police Conduct

Chapter 8: The Police Culture and Work Stress

Chapter 9: Law, Court Decisions, and the Police

Chapter 10: Ethics and Decision-Making

Chapter 11: Police Misconduct and Accountability

Part IV Contemporary Issues in Policing

Chapter 12: Policing in a Diverse Society

Chapter 13: Technology and the Police

Chapter 14: Organized Crime, Homeland Security, and Global Issues

Chapter 15: Private Security

Part V Looking Ahead

Chapter 16: The Future of Policing in the United States