

## Police Systems and Practices (CRIJ 2328)



### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Chris Spears  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 7-8pm

**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

### CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Hybrid

### PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self Evaluation <https://www.lit.edu/online-learning/online-orientation/is-distance-learning-right-for-me>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the establishment, role and function of police in a democratic society. The course begins with the history of policing. It will then focus on types of police agencies and their organizational structure, police-community interaction, police ethics, and use of authority.

This is an hybrid course that will require your attention and effort. It will be delivered through a sixteen (16) week period consisting of 4 modules. There will be weekly discussions that all are required to participate in order to pass the course. The course is strongly based on your ability to read the assigned material, and engage with your peers' discussing the topics along the way.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Explain the historical development of policing.
2. Describe the types of police agencies and explain the role of police in America within the context of a democratic society.
3. Describe the selection process for police officers.
4. Describe means and methods utilized to ensure police accountability.
5. Compare and contrast organizational structures, policies, strategies, and tactics employed to ensure police effectiveness, efficiency, and equity.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

*Policing: A Text/Reader by Carol A. Archbold, 2013 edition. Sage Publishers. ISBN number is 9781412993692.*

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week and attend the prescheduled in-person class dates. These will be announced after the start of class.

**DROP POLICY**

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

**STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

DATE	TOPIC	Discussions (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
8/21/23 (1)	Introduction	“Introductions” Discussion (1)	- Introduction Assignment - Begin reading Chapter 1
8/28/23 (2)	Section 1 – The History of the Police		Assignment (1)
9/4/23 (3)	Section 2 – Progressing Beyond Traditional Policing	Discussion (2)	
9/11/23 (4)	Section 3 – The Scope of American Law Enforcement		Assignment (2)
9/18/23 (5)	Section 4 – Police Officers and Police Culture	Discussion (3)	
9/25/23 (6)	Section 5 – Career Paths of Police Officers		Test (1)
10/2/23 (7)	Section 6 – Police Organization and Leadership	Discussion (4)	
10/9/23 (8)	Section 7 – Patrol, Investigations, and Innovations in Technology		Assignment (3)
10/16/23(9)	Section 8 – Police Effectiveness	Discussion (5)	
10/23/23 (10)	Section 9 – Police Liability and Accountability		Test (2)

10/30/23 (11)	Section 10 – Citizens and the Police: Perceptions and Interactions	Discussion (6)	
11/6/23 (12)	Section 11 – Discretion and the Police		Assignment (4)
11/13/23 (13)	Section 12 – Police Deviances and Ethics	Discussion (7)	
11/20/23 (14)	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
11/27/23 (15)	Section 13 – Policing in the Present and Future		Test (3)
12/4/23 (16)	Final Exam		

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Tests 30%
- Assignments 30%
- Discussions 30%
- Course Project 10%

### **GRADING SCALE**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an "F" grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.