

CJS 207

Contemporary Policing in America



This course will examine the nature of policing in American society. The course introduces students to the history, roles, organization, and culture of the police with a focus on key contemporary issues and challenges facing police agencies and officers today.

Students will examine new approaches to policing ranging from community and problem-oriented policing philosophies to more specific strategies for addressing gangs, guns, drugs, and domestic violence with a focus on how these strategies impact crime. Students will also be exposed to a number of issues facing street-level officers and the implications these issues have for the relationship between the police and community. Over the course of the semester such topics may include abuses of authority, coercion, corruption, and the use of discretion. We will explore administrative strategies for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing within the context of balancing safety and individuals' rights.

