

Department of Criminal Justice
Police Misconduct and Corruption
California State University, Fullerton
Intersession January 2006

General Information:

Instructor: Raymond E. Foster, MPA
Day/Time: TWThF 7:00PM 9:45PM
Location: TBA
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00PM 6:45PM
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Course Objectives:

This course explores police misconduct and corruption from both a historical and contemporary view. The course looks at aspect of the police subculture and different police organizational structures which may encourage or enable misconduct. Students will examine potential causes of misconduct and corruption, and conduct an assessment of the various proposals for reform. The course will specifically look at how hiring and training, police bureaucracy, police socialization, law, policy, community input, political pressure and pressure from special interest groups may influence police misconduct.

Learning Goals:

Students will:

1. be able to compare and contrast the different aspect to police misconduct.
2. be able to explain the various theories on police misconduct.
3. explore the police subculture as a potential source of misconduct.
4. explore the organizational and bureaucratic aspects of police agencies which may enable misconduct.
5. understand the different types of internal investigations conducted by police agencies.
6. understand the restrictions on a police officer's Constitutional Rights.
7. be able to explain various attempts at police reform.
8. have increased their analytical, research, writing, information literacy and communication skills.

Required Readings:

The following readings are available online through the university library: (Note: The articles are listed alphabetically. Check the schedule for the analysis due date.

DeLint, W. (1998). Regulating autonomy: discretion as a problem for training. *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, 40(3), p277-304.

Iris, M. (1998). Police discipline in Chicago: arbitration or arbitrary? *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 89(1), p215-245.

Kane, R. (2005). Comprised police legitimacy as a predictor of violent crime in structurally disadvantaged communities. *Criminology*, 43(2), p469-498.

Montgomery, D. (2005) Excessive Force 101. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 74(8), p8-12.

Rick, D. (1991). Behind the silence. *ABA Journal*, 77(7), 45-49.

Stunz, W. (2002). Terrorism, federalism and police misconduct. *Harvard Journal of Law & Policy*, 25(2), p. 665-690.

Weitzer, R.. & Tuch, S. (2005) Racially biased policing: determinants of citizen perceptions. *Social Forces*, 83(3), 1009-1030.

The following readings are available for download on the course website.

Greene, J., Piquero, A.. Hickman, M. & Lawton, B. (2004) Police integrity and accountability in Philadelphia: predicting and assessing police misconduct, National Institute of Justice

Mollen Commission Report, 1994

Kolts Report, 1992

Christopher Commission Report, 1991

Course Requirements:

The following responsibilities apply to all students:

1. Attend class and take notes.
2. Read and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by the dates identified in the course syllabus.
3. Prepare five 2-3 page analysis of the seven assigned articles.
4. Participate in Panel Discussion as directed by the instructor, including the group preparation of a 3-4 page hand-out.
5. Prepare a 10 minute presentation on a website assigned by the instructor. During the presentation, provide each of your classmates (and the instructor) with a one page briefing paper on the website.
6. Participate in class activities and discussions.

Method of Evaluation:

Grades:

Article Analysis	35%
Website Analysis	10%
Panel Discussion	30%
Class Participation	15%
Online Participation	10%
Semester Total	100%

A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	60-63%
F	Below 60

Additional Information:

Grading – The plus or minus scheme is used for grading.

Examinations – There are no examination in this class.

Papers – The article analysis papers are to be submitted per the course schedule on the last page of this syllabus. Late papers will lose one letter grade each day they are late. Papers are to be double spaced, using 12 point font. The use of APA style is strongly encouraged. As the course progresses, superior papers will incorporate concepts and references from earlier papers. Each paper counts as 5% of a student’s overall grade.

Extra Credit – No extra credit is available for this course.

Attendance - Within the university setting, students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and participate in topic discussion to enhance the overall learning experience. As participation is directly related to attendance and this is an intensive and time-abbreviated course, **students missing more than one class session will not receive any credit for attendance/participation.** Attendance will be recorded by a class roster that will be passed among the students during each class. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the roster.

Participation – Class participation is 15% of the student’s final grade. Participation will be measured by the use of a “student participation log,” their attendance and their participation during class discussions. The participation log is available for download at the course website. The students are expected to obtain the log and keep a record of their participation. The log must be submitted on the final day of instruction. Online participation is 10% of the students final grade. Online participation will be posting of comments and replies to comments about the movie *Serpico* and the three guest speakers. Superior participation will be determined by the insight of the question or comment, and by the student’s responses to other student postings. Postings are due with 24 hours of the movie and each of the presentations.

Website Review – On the course website there are hyperlinks to a number of sources about police misconduct. Each student will be assigned a website. The student will review the website and prepare a ten minute presentation on the contents; and, provide each other student with a one page executive summary of the website.

Panel Discussions - On the first day of class students will be divided into four panels. Each panel will be assigned a special commission report or research report on police misconduct. The panel, as a group, will conduct an analysis of the report and digest the information into a presentation for the class. In addition to the presentation, the panel will produce a three to four page executive briefing for each class member. Panel discussions will be graded on thoroughness, insightfulness, incorporation of other assigned readings and independent research, participation by all panel members, questions and comments generated by the class. More information on the structure and expectations of panel discussions will be delivered on the first day of instruction.

Ethical Conduct - Students should be aware that there are severe consequences for violations of academic ethical conduct. Primarily, we are concerned with cheating and plagiarism. Students who are determined to have cheated or committed plagiarism will face disciplinary action as identified within CSUF regulations. For additional clarification of cheating and/or plagiarism, refer to the CSUF website, the instructor, or University Policy Statement (UPS) 300.21.

Website - The course has one companion website. At that website the students will find hyperlinks to the readings, important course downloads (such as the syllabus and class log) and hyperlinks to other course related multimedia presentations (such as PowerPoint presentations, short videos, etc). Additionally, the course will make use of Blackboard as provided by the university. At Blackboard, grades will be posted shortly after submission of material, and the final grade shortly after the final day of instruction.

Date	Theme	Assignment Due
3-Jan	Introduction, orientation, Discretion and Subculture	
4-Jan	Group set-up, work on projects	
5-Jan	Serpico	
6-Jan	Individual officer development and issues	
10-Jan	Organizational influences	DeLint
11-Jan	Lieutenant Mike Lee, Monrovia Police Department	Rick
12-Jan	Police Officer's Rights	Montgomery
13-Jan	Critical issues, Use of Force, Pursuits, Civil Liability	
17-Jan	Community, special interest and political pressures	Kane
18-Jan	Types and cases of misconduct	Weitzer, et al
19-Jan	Guest Speaker	Stunz
20-Jan	Chief Andrews Presentation, Law Enforcement Ethics	
24-Jan	Accountability Measures	Iris
25-Jan	Website Reviews	Reviews
26-Jan	Panel Discussions	Panel Analysis
27-Jan	Panel Discussions	Panel Analysis, Participation Log