



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

## **Seminar on Police Effectiveness**

CRIM 5323 | 3 Credits | Spring 2025

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Instructor: Dr. Sunguook Lee  
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Email: [slee1@tamusa.edu](mailto:slee1@tamusa.edu)  
Classroom: Asynchronous Online  
Meeting Time: Asynchronous Online

### **Office Hours:**

T & TH: 12:30 am – 01:30 pm

### **Course Description:**

This course involves the study of important issues in the field of policing with an emphasis on tackling real world problems. Specifically, students will explore and discuss recent issues and controversies regarding American policing.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) Discuss issues and controversies of police misconduct in modern society. 2) Analyze police-community relations issues: Mainly regarding the relationship between minority/impoverished community and the police. 3) Evaluate what needs to change in police organization and policing to improve police legitimacy and police-community relations. 4) Examine what conflict, resistance, or obstacles we may face when trying to reform the police.

### **Required Textbook:**

No textbook is required in this course. You will be searching for necessary scholarly articles on Google Scholar on a weekly basis. That is, based on the weekly topic, you will need to search on Google Scholar to gather supporting evidence for your critical writing.

### **Class Format:**

This course will consist of weekly Critical Writing. Specifically, students will be provided with a weekly topic. They will be asked to take side and provide a scholarly presentation of their arguments (supporting evidence). All writing must be in APA format with proper citations. If the argument or the supporting evidence is weak, a student will be asked to defend their writing via Zoom conference. If the student cannot defend their writing (unwilling or unable), it will be considered an automatic zero.



## **Assessments**

### **Critical Writing (240 points)**

A total of 12 Critical Writing assignment worth 20 points each will be completed throughout the semester. Each week, you will be provided with a discussion topic. You are required to take a stance regarding the topic. You must critically assess the topic by assessing the information to understand your topic (provided each week) from more than one perspective. Specifically, you must make logical connections between ideas and offer your own perspective on the topic (your argument) based on your evaluation of the scientific evidence. Note here that only scientific evidence from Google Scholar will be permitted as evidence. Word count for each Critical Writing assignment will be 1000 (only counting main text). Anything below 1000 words will be an automatic zero. All writing, especially Critical Writing must be in APA format with proper citations (any incorrect citations will be considered plagiarism and thus will be an automatic zero). Any use of AI assistance (This includes software like Grammarly, Chat GPT, etc.) will be penalized. First offense will be penalized based on the instructor's discretion. Second offense will result in the student being dropped from the course. Due dates will be provided on the Black Board and more instructions on how to write a Critical Writing is provided on Black Board. Note that you will be asked to join one on one zoom meetings to discuss your written product.

### **Zoom Presentation Recordings (100 points):**

A total of 12 Zoom recording presentation will be posted by the student worth 10 points each. Each week, the student will provide a PowerPoint presentation recording via Zoom. The presentation will be on the weekly Critical Writing that they have written each week. This presentation will be your opportunity to explain your perspective of the discussion topic, to provide your argument that you have written, and to explain your choice of scientific evidence that you picked to support your arguments. Treat this presentation like you are verbally trying to explain what you have written. The presentation should be between 7 – 10 minutes and must be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. You should create a PowerPoint slide that summates your critical writing assignment. This should help you explain what you were trying to argue for your written assignment. Any presentation below 7 minutes will be an automatic zero.

### **Final Report (100 points):**

At the end of the semester, you are required to submit a final report. The report will focus on a topic of your choice within the policing realm. 1) Identify ONE issue that you think is problematic to the American policing system. 2) provide a literature review on what empirical studies have been conducted regarding your topic. 3) Provide your argument (Why you think your topic is an issue) for your topic. 4) Provide supporting empirical evidence (Google Scholar research articles only) for your argument. 5) provide a policy that could reform or fix the issue that you chose (policy must be detailed and descriptive with logical explanation of how and why it could fix or eliminate the issue that you have identified. The minimum/maximum word count for the final report is 2000-2500 and APA format (special emphasis on proper citation) is required (Minimum requirement). Any writing that does not meet the minimum requirement will be an automatic zero. Also, a Zoom presentation will be asked depending on my assessment of the paper. If asked, students will be asked to defend their own writing via zoom conference call.



**Grading Scheme:**

Evaluation Mechanism	Point Value	Point %
Introduce Yourself Assignment	10 points	3
Critical Writing Assignment	12 @ 20 points each = 240	51
Zoom Presentation Recording	12 @ 10 points each = 120	25
Final Report (Policy Paper)	1 @ 100 points	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale:**

<b>GRADE POINT</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (AVERAGE)</b>
4.0 (A)	90.0 – 100 %
3.0 (B)	80.0 – 89.9 %
2.0 (C)	70.0 – 79.9 %
1.0 (D)	60.0 – 69.9 %
0.0 (F)	Below 60.0 %

**Late Assignment Policy:**

Students are expected to turn in work on time. Work submitted late but within 24 hours of the due date and time will receive a 50% penalty.

**Disruptive Behavior:**

The student's behavior in the online classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned. The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility. No student shall interfere with the functions and services of the University (but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted.

**Academic Integrity:**

Any violation of academic integrity will be penalized. This includes improper citations (plagiarism) and any use of AI assistance including software like Grammarly, Chat GPT, etc. First offense will be penalized based on the instructor's discretion. Second offense will result in the student being dropped from the course.

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

The syllabus is subject to change with reasonable advanced notice as course needs arise. It will and can be changed based on the instructor's judgment or the evaluation of the class progress throughout the semester. **Depending on the progress of the semester, the schedule, assignment, and exam dates will change.** When Change is made in the schedule, you will be notified via Black Board Announcement tab. Thus, always check Black Board for updates on the schedule.



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## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

**Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').** For more information and self-help resources, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>



Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-



punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity.

To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are



encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

*Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

*Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.



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We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

***No Use of Generative AI Permitted***

*CRIM 5323 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.*