

Minnesota State University Moorhead

CJ 544: Sociology for Law Enforcement

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This class examines the role of sociology in the development of American police policies and training. It emphasizes challenges such as homelessness, mental illness, autism, post-traumatic stress, suicide, and other issues of particular importance to rank and file police officers, and discusses how modern social science has challenged and improved American policing. The class also addresses a number of learning objectives required by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training for police officer licensing.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/05/2022 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Data: Value, reliability, validity, and verisimilitude
2. Causes of crime and violence
3. Crisis response teams and defunding the police
4. Coordinating police with homeless outreach
5. Complaints and policing homelessness
6. Police in public schools
7. Status offenses
8. Autism awareness and police practices
9. Policing mental illness and post-traumatic stress
10. Policing suicide threats
11. De-escalation technologies
12. The importance of empathy in promoting compliance

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Understand the role of police as first line responders to marginal and vulnerable populations.
2. Discuss key developments in police training that are influenced by social science research.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary trends in American policing policies and the political and scientific forces related to those trends.
4. Assess the value of contemporary criminal justice agency responses to homelessness, mental illness, autism, post-traumatic disorders, and suicide.
5. Identify modern technical and scientific influences on police-community relations, especially those related to pro-active policing.
6. Demonstrate mastery of the contemporary debates on police use of force; in-service training on procedural justice and implicit bias; police-media relations including police understanding of First Amendment and social media issues; "defunding" the police and the social scientific contributions to those debates.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted