








Syllabus
CRIM 2030
Police & Society
2026

Committee Members:

- Michael David, Central Community College
- N/A, Metropolitan Community College
- Sheri Hink-Wagner, Mid-Plains Community College
- Matt McCarthy & Colleen Barnes, Northeast Community College
- Rita Dondlinger, Southeast Community College
- Tiffany Wasserburger, Western Nebraska Community College
- N/A, Little Priest Tribal College
- N/A, Nebraska Indian Community College

Facilitator: Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Institution agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	02/12/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	02/13/2026	Not Offered
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	02/16/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	02/11/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	02/16/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	02/11/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	02/20/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	02/18/2026	Adopt



I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM2030
Course Title: Police & Society
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: Examines the role of the police in relationship to law enforcement in the United States. Topics include but are not limited to the role and function of police, the nature of police organizations and police work, and the patterns of police-community relations.

Credit Hours: 3.0 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45 hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

A. Course will:

1. Trace the history of policing in the United States and the movement toward police professionalism.
2. Describe the organizational structures and management styles of police agencies.
3. Examine patterns of interaction between the police and the diverse population in the United States and demonstrate how special interest groups and politics affect the police along with community relations.
4. Describe the issues of discretion, ethics, corruption, decision-making and morality.
5. Explain the concept of police culture and subcultures.
6. Explain civil liability within law enforcement.
7. Review the practices of police recruitment and selection process.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical development of policing in the United States and its relationship to society.
2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of police in maintaining order, enforcing laws, and providing community services.
3. Explain the different policing models and strategies, including community policing, problem-oriented policing, and evidence-based practices.
4. Analyze the relationship between police and diverse communities, with attention to issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and cultural differences.
5. Analyze ethical and legal considerations in policing, including use of force, accountability, and civil rights protections.
6. Examine contemporary challenges facing law enforcement, such as technology, terrorism, mental health response, and public trust.
7. Identify career opportunities, hiring processes and requirements in policing.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of professional skills and ethical standards expected in the field.

IV. COURSE CONTENT / TOPICAL OUTLINE (chronology may vary)

- A. Police History
- B. Organization

- C. Police Culture
- D. Ethics and Discretion
- E. Patrol
- F. Investigation
- G. Community Policing
- H. Police and the Law
- I. Contemporary Challenges in Policing

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The following texts are suggested for this course:
 - 1. Police in Society, Novak, Oxford, Latest Edition
 - 2. Introduction to Policing, Forst & Demsey, Cengage, Latest Edition
 - 3. Police in America, Brandl, S., Sage, Latest Edition
 - 4. Open Education Resources that meet the listed course objectives/competencies and student outcomes, chosen at the instructors' discretion. These resources will be comparable in content to the textbooks listed above.
- B. Supplemental Materials (handouts, articles, videos, website, etc.) to be supplied by the instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Hybrid, Blended, or Virtual
- C. Online
- D. Subject Matter Expert

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Oral Assignments
- D. Projects

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

- A. Content and schedule determined by instructor.