



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Criminal Justice Department

CRJ 201 (Section 1700): Policing
3 Lecture Hours | 3 Credits | Fall 2025 Syllabus

Professor Daniel DiPrenda, M.P.A. – I.G.

Course Meeting Dates and Times: Tuesday and Thursday 5:30PM – 6:45PM

Classroom: Main Building Room N783

Office Hour: Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30PM-4:45PM Fiterman Room 730Y (email me for appointment).

Adjunct Office: Fiterman Room 730Y

Office: Criminal Justice Department, Fiterman Room 830D

Office Telephone: extension 6547

Please Note: If you would like to meet with me, please contact me by email, or speak to me before or after class. I will be happy to meet you.

Email: ddiprenda@bmcc.cuny.edu

Course Modality: This class is conducted in person.

Course Description

This course is intended to broaden the student's understanding of the origins and development of law enforcement agencies in the United States. Moreover, the course will examine the complex role of the police in a democratic society in the criminal justice system. An emphasis will be placed on recruitment, the training process, and the importance of diversity, particularly among larger police departments in the U.S. The course will also examine contemporary legal issues and modern strategies such as community, evidence-based, intelligence-led, and predictive policing.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: CRJ 101 (Introduction to Criminal Justice)

Class Objectives

Students will gain an understanding of:

- A. the role of the police in the administration of justice in the United States of America.
- B. the theories related to the policy and practice of police.
- C. the operations and administration of police.
- D. the history, structure, and culture of American police agencies.
- E. the diverse roles and responsibilities of American police.
- F. the assumptions and realities of contemporary issues facing police departments in America today.
- G. the concepts and methods of the social sciences and applied research strategies.



Student Learning Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Course Student Learning Outcomes Students will be able to:	Suggested Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the history, structures, and purpose of American police departments. 2. Discuss the role of American police departments in contemporary society. 3. Describe entry-level jobs and career paths in American police departments. 4. Demonstrate an understanding of the present-day issues facing police departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Discussion board posts • Chapter outlines

General Education Outcomes & Means of Assessment

Below are the College's General Education goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.

General Education Goals	Suggested Types of Assessments (for goals listed in first column)
<p>Social & Behavioral Sciences – Students will understand and apply the concepts and methods of social sciences. Student behaviors include being able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate an understanding of the unique theories and methods of a social or behavioral science • analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Discussion board posts • Chapter outlines
<p>Information & Technology Literacy- Students will collect, evaluate, and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams or assignments • Multiple choice exams • Quizzes • Discussion board posts

Required Text

This class is designated as a zero-textbook course (ZTC). Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

This course is also designated as an Open Educational Resource Course (OER) Open educational resources are materials for teaching or learning that are either in the public domain or have been released under a license that allows them to be freely used, changed, or shared with others.

Additional Resources: You may be required to read additional material handed out during the semester.



Classroom Climate

Your success in this course is important to me. Balancing life, stress and academics can become difficult at times. None of us are immune from the feelings of grief, anxiety, and frustration. Nevertheless, we will strive to maintain a welcoming, inclusive classroom climate in which everyone belongs. I encourage you to reach out to me if there is anything that is preventing you from succeeding. I will try my best to assist you. However, I cannot do this if you do not make me aware. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to contact me with any issues related to class, assignments, etc. Please contact me via email, during virtual office hour, as appropriate

Reading Assignments

Reading all the assigned materials for the class is essential. The readings that I assign are college-level and might require you to use a dictionary. Please do not feel frustrated if you do not already know every word or concept you encounter in the readings. Be patient and allow yourself time to read and re-read. The reading may also be slow-going, so allow yourself an hour to read 10 pages. Most weeks you will be responsible for 30 to 50 pages, so please allow yourself between three and five hours outside of class to read the material each week.

Course Structure

This course is conducted in person and meets every Tuesday and Thursday, except as otherwise noted in the College Academic Calendar.

Each week I will post a new lesson in Brightspace. The module can be found by going to the **Nav bar** in Brightspace, then content. **Navbar>content**. Modules will become “live” on Monday at 12:00AM and run until the following Sunday at 11:59PM.

The course modules typically will consist of the following:

- An introduction to the weekly content.
- Instructions that list a set of tasks to be completed
- Lecture
- Reading assignment and Power Point
- Writing assignment
- Discussion board
- Quiz

Please Note: All assignments including quizzes and Discussion Board posts will be due Sunday evening at 11:59PM.

Weekly Planner

I posted two versions of [weekly planners](#) for you in the **navbar > content>course documents**. The weekly planners are designed to help you plan your workflow for the week. I included a blank planner for you to use in other courses.

BMCC Grading Scale

A 93% and above	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80 - 82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D - 60-61%	F Below 60%



Evaluation & Requirements of Students

Final grades may be determined as follows:

Grade Item	Weight
Exams Midterm and Final (2 @ 20%)	40%
Project – Agency Analysis	15%
Written Assignments	15%
Participation	15%
Quizzes	10%
Discussion Boards	5%
Total	100%

Grading Explained

1. The Midterm and Final Exams (40%)

The Midterm and Final Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false and essay questions. The exams will be administered in class.

2. Agency Analysis (15%)

You will be required to analyze a law enforcement agency. The analysis will include a description of the agency and its online presence, the agency's mission and values, organizational structure, crime statistics, diversity, and current events.

I will provide more detailed information during the semester.

3. Writing Assignments (15%)

You will be required to complete various writing assignments. Most of the assignments will involve reading and summarizing content that is associated with that week's lecture. Your summary will be written on a "reading worksheet" that contains prompts to guide you in summarizing the reading selection.

Each assignment will be worth fifteen (15) points. I will supply a rubric that describes the elements of a well written assignment. Use the rubric as a guide for success. All assignments will be submitted through Brightspace.

4. Participation (15%)

Participation in classroom discussions is an essential element of any teaching modality. Discussions will be largely collaborative, designed to amplify the weekly readings and current events. To participate fully you must read the assigned text prior to coming to class.

Participation will be graded individually and on a weekly basis. Additional information regarding the CUNY/BMCC *Class Participation Policy and My Participation Policy* are outlined below.

5. Quizzes (10%)

Quizzes will be used to reinforce concepts that were taught and covered in lectures. They will be administered in class. Each quiz is worth 10 points.

Students will not be permitted to take a test or quiz after the due date.



6. Discussion Boards (5%)

In this face-to-face course, you also will be required to participate in Brightspace discussion posts. You will be prompted to respond to a question that is related to a topic being discussed that week. In most instances, you will be asked to reply to one or more of your classmates in the post. Replies to discussion board posts will require you to use critical thinking skills. Your responses should be substantive and meaningful. I will supply a rubric for responding to discussion boards.

Discussion boards will open **on Monday at 12:00AM. Your main post should be made by Wednesday at 11:59PM and replies to classmates must be made by Sunday evening at 11:59PM**

Each discussion post will be worth twenty (20) points. Your initial post is worth ten (10) points and your replies to fellow students will be worth ten (10) points.

Course Policies and Requirements

Being Prepared for Class

- You must be prepared to work when you arrive at class.
- You are mentally present and thinking about our class and you are ready to participate.
- You have read the material that was assigned for class.
- You have reviewed your notes from the previous class.
- You are prepared to take notes for the current class.
- You have a notebook and a blue or black pen.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend each class, and attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Although attendance is not graded, participation is graded. If you must miss a class for any reason, you must email me the same day, either before or after class, with a brief explanation of the reason.

If you are experiencing personal issues which cause you to often miss class (illness, a change in work hours, childcare issues, etc.), please email me and ask for an appointment to discuss how your situation can best be remedied and how you can best work toward the highest possible final grade.

Any unexcused absence will adversely affect your participation grade.

Please Note: An excused absence is one that is accompanied by proper documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) and must be provided in a timely fashion for the absence to be counted as excused. Excuses that cannot be verified with documentation will not be accepted as valid.

The decision to excuse an absence or lateness will be at the Professor's sole discretion.



Late to Class Policy

Students are expected to arrive on time for class. I will call the roll at the start of class. If you arrive after I have called the roll, you will be marked late or absent.

If you arrive late, you will disrupt the class and you will miss important material. However, if you are delayed, please email me to let me know that I can expect you.

Class Participation (BMCC Policy)

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student's responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

Class Participation (My Policy)

Class participation, which is part of the grade, is based on the student's ability to discuss the subject matter. It is vital that each student exhibits an understanding of the concepts and topics.

Participation in discussions is an essential element of any teaching modality. Participation includes in-class writing exercises, discussions and answering questions. In class writing exercises and discussions will be designed to amplify the weekly readings and current events. To participate fully you must read the assigned text prior to coming to class. Participation will be graded individually and on a weekly basis.

All students are expected to participate in class discussions. You must attend class in order to participate in class discussions. I *may encourage* participation by calling on students from the class roster to answer questions or comment on course materials.

We will strive for discussions that are informed, constructive, critical, and civil. It is best if you read all the assigned material and be ready with your thoughts and opinions. I will evaluate your effort (attendance in classes, punctuality, reading the material before class, contributing to discussions) as well as the quality of your participation (insightfulness of your comments, respectful engagement with your classmates).

Due Dates and Late Submissions Policy

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due on the day they are due. Brightspace automatically assigns a grade of zero for assignments that are not submitted by the due date.

Weekly Planner

I posted two versions of [weekly planners](#) for you in the **navbar > course documents**. The weekly planners are designed to help you plan your workflow for the week. I included a blank planner for you to use in other courses.



Communication

Preferred Method of Communication

The *preferred method of communication* in this course is to email the professor: diprenda@bmcc.cuny.edu. Please include the course code and section in the subject heading, (e.g., CRJ200-0902). Please restrict your email correspondence to issues of class business and questions that are not answered in the syllabus.

Email communication with the instructor in this class should be considered formal, like other business style email correspondence. You should address your instructor by title and name (Professor DiPrenda, Mr. DiPrenda) unless instructed otherwise. Please use appropriate capitalization, spell out words completely, and sign your complete name.

I will check my emails once a day, and I will usually be able to answer your emails within 24 hours [except on weekends]. Usually, I will not respond to emails between 10:00PM and 6:00AM.a

I will not respond to non-CUNY login or non BMCC email addresses.

Email Protocol for Students

Every student registered at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) is assigned a BMCC email account (firstname.lastname@stu.bmcc.cuny.edu).

You are required to use your BMCC email account when communicating electronically.

Issues involving email can be resolved by the BMCC Department of Information Resources and Technology. They are in the Main Building Room S-140, by calling the help desk: telephone 212.220.8360 or emailing the service desk at: servicedesk@bmcc.cuny.edu.

If you require help for Brightspace, you can access Brightspace help from the Nav Bar.

Navbar>Brightspace Help

Online Course Conduct

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. We should all desire to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following Netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.



- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions must be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable.

Adapted from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/>

Use of Technology in the Classroom

Cellular Phones

The use of cellular phones in class is prohibited. Using a phone in class is not only disruptive, but also distracting to me, you and your classmates. Please put away your phone.

Laptops

The use of laptops in class is prohibited.

Photography and/or Recording Policy

Photography and/or recording is strictly prohibited without prior express written permission of the instructor.

Brightspace Notes

YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO BRIGHTSPACE! YOU MUST CHECK BRIGHTSPACE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS.

Here are a few notes regarding the submission of assignments and use of Brightspace:

- All written work should be saved in pdf format before uploading to Brightspace.
- If you use Apple Pages or Google docs, you must convert your document to PDF before submitting it to Brightspace.
- You should save your work on a thumb drive, a cloud service or your computer's hard drive.

Note: When you are submitting an assignment to Brightspace, attach your saved document. Do not write directly to the text editor. I have heard of cases in which Brightspace did not save the document in the text editor. Locating lost documents inside Brightspace requires a forensic effort for which neither of us has time.



Brightspace PULSE APP by D2L

D2L is the parent company of Brightspace, and they have an app which you can download for use on your phone or iPad. This link might help you: [Brightspace Pulse on the App Store \(apple.com\)](https://www.apple.com/brightspace-pulse/)

Note: CUNY offers [Microsoft Office 365 for PC and Mac free of charge](#) to students and faculty. Microsoft Office 365 includes a suite of productivity applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. It also includes one terabyte of cloud storage in One Drive. Please click on the [link](#) to take advantage of this amazing benefit from CUNY.

Taking a Test or Quiz on Brightspace

- If you are required to take a test or quiz on Brightspace, use a computer, *not your phone or tablet*. Be certain that your computer is attached to an Ethernet cable and not operating solely on Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi signals, other than those in your home, may “cut out”, causing you to lose the connection.
- If you lose the connection to Brightspace, the exam or quiz will stop, and your grade will be submitted to Brightspace as is. Ethernet connections can be found in the College computer labs, the College library, your local library, or your home. Coffee shops and similar venues typically operate on public Wi-Fi. So, it’s not a good idea to do take the test there.

Notable Class Events

Tuesday, August 26, First day of **our** course.

Tuesday, September 23, No Classes Scheduled (Rosh Hashanah)

Thursday, October 2, No Classes Scheduled (Yom Kippur)

Tuesday, October 14, No Class - Classes Follow Monday Schedule

Thursday, November 27 College Closed – No Classes Scheduled (Thanksgiving)

Tuesday, October 21, Midterm Examination will be administered in class.

Thursday, December 11, Last day of **Our** Class

Tuesday, December 16, Final Examination will be administered in class.

CLASS CALENDAR and TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week No.	Class Days	Topic	Reading Due by Tuesday	Assignment(s) Due Date
0	August 26 & August 28	Lesson 0: Welcome	Familiarize yourself with Brightspace through e-Learning. Read the syllabus, complete the quiz.	August 28, at 11:59PM
1	September 2 & September 4	Lesson 1: Police History Course Learning Objective #1	Brief History of the Evolution of Law and Our Criminal Justice System	September 7, at 11:59PM



2	September 9 & September 11	Lesson 2: Crime Statistics	History of the UCR and Calculating Crime	September 14, at 11:59PM
3	September 16 & September 18	Lesson 3: Contemporary Policing: An Overview Course Learning Objective #2	Contemporary Policing: An Overview	September 21, at 11:59PM
4	September 25	Lesson 4: Ethics and Accountability	Internal Affairs, CCRB, Office of Inspector General	September 28, at 11:59PM
5	September 30	Lesson 5: Patrol, “The Backbone of Policing”	Patrol, Kansas City Preventative Patrol Experiment, Special Operations	October 5, at 11:59PM
6	October 7 & October 9	Lesson 6: Investigations and Specialized Roles	ESU Video Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)	October 12, at 11:59PM
7	October 16	Lesson 7: Recruitment and Training	Pre-Employment Screening and Academy Training	October 19, at 11:59PM
	October 21		Midterm Examination will be administered in class.	
8	October 23	Lesson 8: Career Opportunities in Policing and Criminal Justice Course Learning Objective #3		October 26, at 11:59PM
9	October 28 & October 30	Lesson 9: Policing and Diversity	Implicit Bias Stonewall Riots	November 2, at 11:59PM
10	November 4 & November 6	Lesson 10: Women and Policing	Women and Policing Report 2019	November 9, at 11:59PM
11	November 11 & November 13	Lesson 11: Data Driven Policing Part 1	Evidence Based, Intelligence Led and Predictive Policing Models	November 16, at 11:59PM
12	November 18 & November 20	Lesson 13: Data Driven Policing Part 2	Evidence Based, Intelligence-Led and Predictive Policing Models	November 23, at 11:59PM



13	November 25	Lesson 13: Officer Stress and Safety	Mental Health and Safety	November 30, at 11:59PM
14	December 2 & December 4	Lesson 14: Force and Coercion		December 7, at 11:59PM
15	December 9 & (December 11 Last Day of Class)	Lesson 15: Police and the Law		December 11, at 11:59PM
		Last Day of Our Class		December 11
	December 16		Final Exam will be administered in class on December 16	

BMCC Writing Center

[The BMCC Writing Center](#) has gone virtual. Online tutoring is available via a new service called [Upswing](#). Log on using your BMCC username and password. The BMCC Writing Center teaches students registered at BMCC to think critically, write actively, revise mindfully, and proofread carefully. Writing Center tutors are trained to help you improve your writing on multiple levels, from grammar to argumentation. They can apply these skills to formal and informal writing. One-on-One tutoring and workshops meet different needs, but both must be reserved, so plan ahead. The Writing Center is a valuable resource for any student of writing, and I encourage you to use this excellent resource. The Writing Center may be contacted through any of the following: Address: 199 Chambers Street in Room S-510, telephone (212) 220-1384. Email: writingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu

Tired of writing papers on your phone?

The BMCC Library loans laptops for a three-hour period (details here: <http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/services/ipad-laptop-borrowing/>). Through a grant funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and a Title V grant from John Jay College, we are also able to offer CRJ students the opportunity to borrow a laptop for a **24-hour period**. To check out a laptop for 24 hours, visit the Media desk in the library, tell the staff that you are a CRJ student, and bring your ID card with a current semester sticker.

Your Success

Your success in this course and at BMCC is important to me. I encourage you to reach out to me if there is anything that is preventing you from succeeding. I will try my best to assist you. However, I cannot do this if you do not make me aware. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to contact me with any issues related to class, assignments, etc. Please contact me via email, during virtual office hours, as appropriate.

Student Distance Learning Information and Services:

<https://sites.google.com/bmcc.cuny.edu/bmccdistanlearning/home>

Tutoring



Tutoring is FREE! Please use your BMCC student email and password to schedule an appointment with a tutor at <https://bmcc.upswing.io/>

Balancing Stress, Life, and Academics

Life happens! And sometimes it can make succeeding in your coursework difficult. If you find that you are having a hard time concentrating on your coursework because you might feel overwhelmed by other issues in your life, don't hesitate to reach out for assistance. You may talk to me about how your coursework is being affected, and I can refer to you some resources.

You can also go directly to the Counseling Office at BMCC, which is staffed by psychologists and offers free consultations in Room S-343 or call them at (212) 220-8140. You may also email them: counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. See the [webpage](#) for more information.

You can call, text, or chat online with NYC Well, which offers free mental health support. Visit their [webpage](#), or call 1-888-NYC-WELL (1-888-692-9355).

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's website, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

Gender-Inclusivity

BMCC community members have the right to use and be referred to according to their preferred name, title, and/or personal pronouns. Everyone also has the right to use all spaces according to their self-identification, including restrooms and locker rooms. To learn more about how to change your preferred name and affirm your gender identity at CUNY (including requesting a new ID card and/or email address), go here: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/> Anyone who has experienced harassment related to gender or sexual identification, who needs assistance, or who wishes to file a complaint, can contact the Office of Compliance and Diversity: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity/>.

Free BMCC Student Support Services

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help:

Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC) <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/arc/> Room S230, 212-220-8195, arc@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you are having problems with food or housing insecurity, finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, contact the Advocacy and Resource Center (formerly Single Stop) for assistance. Please



contact us at arc@bmcc.cuny.edu, call 212-220-8195, or come by the office at room S230. You may also contact the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220-8130, studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu, for assistance.

Counseling Center www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling, Room S343, 212-220-8140, counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

Office of Compliance and Diversity <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity>, Room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu, or twade@bmcc.cuny.edu. If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public safety at 212-220-8080.

Office of Accessibility www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, Students who need academic accommodations in connection with a disability must initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA). Students need to register with the Office of Accessibility in order to officially disclose their disability status to the College and to determine eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations (including any prior IEPs or 504s). Please contact the OA at the start of the semester (or as soon as possible) to coordinate any accommodation request/s: www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu.

End of document.