

***Police in Society***  
**SOC\*3750**  
**Winter 2019**  
**Department of Sociology & Anthropology**  
**University of Guelph**

*We acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.<sup>1</sup>*

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Prof. Joseph Pazzano  
Office: 613 MacKinnon  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:45 pm, or by appointment  
Email: [jpazzano@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jpazzano@uoguelph.ca)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-5:20 pm  
Location: Alexander Hall, Room 100  
TAs: TBD

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The police have a complicated relationship with society. In some ways, police officers are viewed as vital to protecting the safety and security of residents, but in other ways, their relationship with the community is fraught, controversial, and sometimes even harmful. This course will describe, interrogate, problematize, and analyze that relationship, drawing on sociological theory to assess the interactions between police, individuals, and broader society. The course will include discussions of the roles and activities of the police; the origins and evolution of police work; the structure of policing in Canada; deviant and unethical police departments and officers; oversight and accountability; issues involving police patrol, use of force, crime prevention, and community engagement; police officers' relationships with marginalized communities like racial minorities, Indigenous peoples, and sexual minorities; and the role of police in social control of deviant social activities. This course will encourage you to challenge your perspectives on the role of police in society, whether that is initially a positive or negative opinion, and evaluate what changes (if any) are needed in the role of police in society.

**REQUIRED READING**

Students are required to purchase the textbook for this course, either in paperback or ebook form. Additional readings will be available through the library's digital reserves. Students will also be required to purchase a subscription to Tophat for the semester, in order to participate in class activities.

**Required:** Griffith, Curt T. *Canadian Police Work*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education, 2016.

**CONTENT WARNINGS AND A NOTE ON INCLUSION**

**Content:** This class may involve discussion of potentially sensitive topics, such as harassment, discrimination, and stigmatizing attitudes such as homophobia, transphobia, racism, and sexism. You should feel free to engage in self-care as necessary and as you see fit, including stepping out of the classroom during discussions or being absent during particular lectures. The topics are noted on the syllabus, so you will have notice of which topics are occurring when.

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<sup>1</sup> Read more at the university's Aboriginal Resource Centre: <https://studentlife.uoguelph.ca/aboriginal>

**Inclusion:** My number one goal in delivering this course is that all students feel welcome and included in the discussion. If there is any aspect of this course that is impeding your ability to succeed, you should feel free to let me know in any manner you see fit. This may include anything from the seating arrangement to the volume of lectures to a particular mental or physical health crisis that is affecting your ability to complete assignments on time. My intention is to work with you to find a solution, and if there is anything I am overlooking in creating an equitable and inclusive classroom, please let me know.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and apply sociological perspectives and various research methodologies to the social, political, and historical role of police
- Critically reflect on policing issues from an intersectional perspective, considering the ways in which sexual orientation, gender identity, racism, ethnicity, class, and disability challenge and complicate the role of police in society
- Engage in contemporary scholarly inquiry to assess current debates about policing in Canada and internationally
- Critically reflect and challenge existing assumptions about the positive and negative ramifications of a society with formal and informal policing structures
- Communicate ideas about policing in innovative and traditional written forms and understand how principles of social justice and advocacy interact with traditional scholarly communications

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Evaluation</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Class Engagement (Tophat participation)	Ongoing	10%
Social Advocacy Written Assignment	Due Date TBD	25%
In-Class Test #1	Date TBD	20%
In-Class Test #2	Date TBD	20%
Cumulative Written Take-Home Exam	Date TBD	25%
Total		100%

*This outline is subject to change and may differ from the final course outline. A final version of the course outline will be provided on the first day of class.*