

**POLICING**  
**U.S. SOCIETY**

MWF 1:00 p.m. -1:50 p.m.  
North Instructional Building - Rm. 150  
CJ-3200  
Instructor: Donald C. Reid

Office: Campus Police Building  
Office- 652-7515 Cell (official)- 619-1145  
E-mail: [reid@dixie.edu](mailto:reid@dixie.edu)

***Success is less a matter of personal I.Q. and “natural talent”; than it is a matter of commitment, personal discipline, and hard work. In other words; give me a hard working “average Joe” over a lazy genius any day.***

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**Basic course description:** This course will be specifically geared toward the student pursuing such law enforcement related careers as adult or juvenile probation, corrections, private or industrial security, law, criminology, and/or criminal justice education; as well as a personal interest in human nature, the “social contract”, and the need for law in society. The academic discipline of criminal justice is a collective and evolutionary component of history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, criminology, law, political science, human behavior, technology, etc.; and this course will incorporate each of these studies.

This course will provide an overview and critical analysis of the American system of law enforcement and criminal justice, examining such topics as; origins, development, history, roles, challenges, and general operations of policing in a modern democratic society. Students of this course will develop a basic understanding of issues, challenges, and rewards involved in policing a free and open society, to include the most current empirical research and advances in policing.

This course will incorporate the use of lectures, videos, assigned texts, and practical demonstration to make as many of those points as possible in the time allotted. This course provides a foundation for work in the criminal justice field, specifically those students intending to attend any law enforcement or corrections academy. It provides also a solid foundation and understanding of the founding of America and the legal system that supports this so called “new governmental experiment”.

**Text:** Peak, K.J. (2011). *Policing America: Challenges and Best Practices*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.

**Referenced:** *Police & Society, third edition*, Roberg / Novak / Cordner. Roxbury Publishing Company.

**Course goals and objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course the student should be familiar with the basic issues, (negative and positive), involved in policing in the United States. The student should develop an understanding of the key problems and concerns faced by today’s police and the various communities they serve, and will explore the most current methods and best practices implemented by police to address those problems. The understanding of these issues will provide the skills and knowledge necessary for the next phase of the student’s criminal justice career.