

CATALOG YEAR 2009-2010
(Please use separate form for each add/change)

COLLEGE/SCHOOL : Arts and Sciences

Current Catalog Page(s) Affected p.360

Course: Add: X Delete: _____
(check all that apply) Change: Number 5346 _____ Title Police Psychology _____ SCH
Description see below 3 Prerequisite Graduate Standing _____

PYSC 5346 Police Psychology. Three semester hours.

Examines the behavior, motivations, selection and testing of law enforcement personnel from a psychological perspective. Presents an overview of the field of police psychology, addressing clinical and consulting issues as well as leading research and theory in police psychology. The police psychology proficiencies can be clustered or organized into four distinct domains of practice: (1) assessment related activities, (2) intervention services, (3) operational support, and (4) organizational/management consultation. The psychology of various law enforcement and civilian safety officers who deal with regular law enforcement, as well as domestic crises such as natural disasters and terrorist threats and events will be covered.

Justification: To cover an area of psychology that is not currently offered in coursework and for which there is extensive student demand.

Program: Add: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Minor: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed minor. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Faculty: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed faculty entry. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

College Introductory Pages: Add information: _____ Change information: _____ Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the and indicate changes in red.

Approvals:

Signature

Date

Chair

Department Curriculum Committee

Gilberto Salinas

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4/8/09

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College Curriculum Committee

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Syllabus Psyc: 5346
Police Psychology: Graduate Course in MS in Psychology

Instructor: Bonnie Rudolph

Office: CH304A

Office Hours: 2:30-4:40 TR and by appointment

E-mail: brudolph@tamiu.edu

Phone: 956 326 2638

Texts:

Required: M. I. Kurke & E. Scrivern, (Eds.) (1995). *Police psychology into the 21st Century*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum & Associates.

Recommended: Miller, L. (2006). *Practical police psychology*. Springfield, IL: Charles Thomas.

Course Description: Examines the behavior, motivations, selection and testing of law enforcement personnel from a psychological perspective. Presents an overview of the field addressing clinical and consulting issues as well as research and theory in police psychology. This a required course for the MS track in police psychology.

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how psychology theory and research can be applied to law enforcement personnel.
2. Demonstrate knowledge in applications of psychology to topics of current and future importance to law enforcement personnel.
3. Critical evaluation of the application of psychological research, theory and practice to current issues in policing in written APA form.
4. Students will become aware of their strengths and weaknesses as they apply to police psychology.

Assessment: Objectives 1 & 2 will be assessed by the midterm. Objective 3 will be assessed by the written professional report week 15 and the student mini-presentations in the final meetings of the class. Objective 4 will be assessed by in-class participation and two self-reflection papers/journals.

Course Format:

Combination of: 1) lectures, and 2) in class presentations by law enforcement experts and 3) student mini-presentations of standard applications of psychology to law enforcement personnel (Visit to a law enforcement agency if possible.) and 4) self-reflection papers/journals turned in at weeks 3, and 10.

Expectations of Students:

Students will not miss more than 2 classes during the semester. Students will communicate respectfully with each other and will the instructor. Students will communicate with the instructor if they experience any difficulties of special needs. Students will be given opportunities to improve skills, *self-reflect* and remediate problematic behaviors and reactions, should they occur.

Grading:

Class participation:	20 points	A=200-180 points
Midterm:	70 points	B=179-159 points
Self-Reflections:	20 points	C=148 points or less: must re-take course & probation
Mini-presentation:	35 points	
Consultation Report:	65 points	
Total:	200 points	

Class Topics:

- I. Overview of the field & expectations of students & faculty
- II. Recruitment, selection, training & management in law enforcement
- III. Health and welfare issues in law enforcement
- IV. Gender issues in policing
- V. Community policing
- VI. Managing threatening situations
- VII. Police as first responders in disasters and terrorist attacks
- VIII. Police Officers and their families
- IX. Midterm
- X. Visit from Law Enforcement Professional
- XI. Drugs, violence and border issues for law enforcement personnel
- XII. Training needs of law enforcement personnel

- XIII. Student mini-presentations of application
- XIV. Student mini-presentations of application: Turn in consultation reports
- XV. Submit Professional Report of consultation scenarios