Policing London: Policy, Law and the Police in the Global City

Faculty Details: Professor Michael Owens

Office Hours: Before and after class, or by appointment.

Course Description
This course explores the relationship between the police, the judicial system and policy makers in London. Students will learn the history of the police force in the UK and the developments that have formed the Metropolitan Police in London today. Topics covered will include: corruption, race relations, policing major demonstrations and riots, and the impact of government policy on policing. Students will explore the politics behind decisions and the framework of the law.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• Explain how the institution of the Metropolitan Police Service was established and has evolved within the wider context of national and London governance;
• Identify some of the key public order issues that have been experienced in London over the past 150 years;
• Analyse the changing policing responses to specific challenges to public order and to wider shifts in the social context for policing;
• Discuss these issues in depth and demonstrate students’ understanding through written and oral presentation of their ideas.

Method of study
The course content will primarily be delivered through lectures and class seminars. The lectures will also draw upon a range of teaching resources, including video films and documentaries, reports, academic and policy documents, news articles and historical and cultural texts.

Students will be provided with key readings to be studied prior to each of the weekly lectures and seminars. The overall programme will define the topics to be covered in each session and provide guidance on further reading.

Attendance Policy
Attendance policies are strictly enforced on this program. Instructors maintain attendance records, and absences from class are strongly discouraged. Attendance at all components of a class (lecture, seminar, field visits, etc.) is expected.

Violation of the attendance policy may result in sanctions including a lower grade, loss of course credit, or dismissal from the program. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the grade reduction policies for unauthorized absence at the beginning of the term. If you experience an emergency that prevents you from attending class, contact your instructor and the ACCENT Director immediately.

Missed classes with no prior approval will result in a penalty of 5% reduction in the student grade for the course.
Assessment
Participation in class discussions 15% of final grade
Presentation 15% of final grade
(Small groups of students will make presentations on policing in the news at the start of each class)
Paper 1 (4 – 6 pages) 20% (middle of week 2)
Paper 2 (4 – 6 pages) 20% (end of week 3)
Exam (in final class) 30%

A note on Academic Dishonesty.
Regardless of the quality of the work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the programme. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources without the acknowledgement of having done so, claiming other ideas as one’s own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/ exams. If necessary, students should seek further clarification about what constitutes plagiarism from their instructor.

Course Schedule

Every week, a small group of students will present a review of current policing issues based on the week’s news coverage. We will explore contemporary policing and justice throughout the course, developing an appreciation that is grounded in our reading of the news and our reflections on the issues raised.

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Class 1  **Overview and Introduction: Policing London in an age of insecurity**

This session will set the scene for the course by reviewing the contemporary context for London policing. It will introduce the major issues of concern for the police and the public.

**Reading:**
Public insecurities about crime: a Review of British Research Literature; Jonathan Jackson, Stephen Farrall, Mike Hough, Ben Bradford; November 2008

Class 2  **Criminal Justice and the Rehabilitation of Offenders**

This session will review the history and contemporary practice of the Criminal Justice System in London. We will learn about the London Mayor’s proposals to wrest control of criminal justice from central government, and the implementation of a New York-style system, where its mayor holds to account those responsible for investigation and arrest, through to charging, prosecution and sentencing. Stephen Greenhalgh, Mayor Johnson’s deputy mayor for policing, has said London’s justice system is stuck in the past: “It is a 19th-century construct with 19th-century technology which needs to move into the 21st century.”

Annaise Elliott (Board Member, Parole Board for England and Wales, will lead the tour)

**Reading:**

[http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Policing.jsp](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Policing.jsp)

Article from Old Bailey online on Policing in London (1674-1913)

Class 3  **How London’s policing is organised: The view from the Police**

This session will consider London Policing from the perspective of serving police officers. Recently retired Police Superintendent Peter Dobson will provide expert insight into the political and policy context for London policing.

**Reading:**
Policing London Business Plan 2011-14, Metropolitan Police Service
Police and Crime Plan 2013-16, Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC), March 2013

Class 4  **Policing is everybody’s business: Partnerships and the cycle of crime**

This session will assess the policies, practice and socio/political context for so-called ‘community policing’, including the creation of local partnerships with local authorities and local communities.

We will discuss policing strategies in respect of London’s gangs, prolific offenders, anti-social behaviour and other priority concerns focused on local neighbourhoods.
**Reading:**
Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People, Home Office Report, July 2010

**Class 5  Policing and Gang Culture in London**

We will hear from Jonathan Toy, former Head of Community Safety working in local government in South London, now a writer and government advisor. Joanthan has worked with some of London’s most notorious gang members, seeking to deter them from a life of crime.

**Class 6  Racism, Riots and Disorder on London’s Streets**

This lesson will review the history of riots and disorder on London’s streets. We will focus especially on race riots in post war London between the late 1950s and the late 1980s, and the factors that led to continuing attempts by the police to restructure and address the challenge of institutional racism. We will explore the social and political context of the riots and the controversies around the policing response to them.

**Reading:**
The English Riots of 2011: a Summer of Discontent (edited by Daniel Briggs); 2012 (preview available online)
Chapter 1 – Introduction
Chapter 2 – Frustrations, Urban Relations and Temptations: Contextualising the English Riots


**Class 7  Safety and Security in London’s Spaces and Places. Can you design out crime?**

In this lecture, we will review the regulation and use of London’s places and spaces. We will learn how urban designers and planners have engaged with issues of safety and security in the planning and management of streets, spaces and buildings and the social theories that underpin urban policies and practice connected with the public realm.

The guest lecturer is leading London urban designer: Dan Hill. Dan has produced masterplans for a number of London’s multiracial districts, including Stratford in east London, home to the 2012 Olympic Games, and Southall in west London, home to London’s largest Sikh population.


**Class 8  Cops on Film: Media constructions of London Crime and Policing**
We will review the portrayal of the police in literature, and in film and TV drama across the years. We will focus, first, on the portrayal of issues of law and order in Victorian literature, in Dickens’ novels and in newspaper coverage of the Jack the Ripper murders and, second, we will analyse the portrayal of the police and criminals in 20th Century film and TV, focusing on the popular 1960s TV drama ‘Dixon of Dock Green’ and on the 1970s film ‘The Long Good Friday’.

Class 9

**From a Police Force to a Police Service: the development of policing by consensus**

This lecture will chart the development of London policing up to the early 1960s. The transformation of policing in London from a system that relied on private individuals and part-time officials to a modern professional police system will be reviewed. The session will provide a brief overview of policing in the 20th Century and assess how World War Two changed British politics, society and culture, creating the conditions for a national consensus around the vision for a Welfare State, and the emergence of the Metropolitan Police as a key institution within it.

**Readings**

Robert Reiner, The Politics of the Police, pages 67-77

Class 10

**The Fraying of the Consensus: Policing and the re-emergence of conflict**

In this second session on the history of London policing, we will review the fraying of the consensus in the post war period, including accusations of corruption between police and criminals, the emergence of the inner city and race as key areas of contestation and tension.

We will identify and assess the changing institutional character and the strategy of policing in what might be identified as a late industrial society. Our review will chart a number of defining moments for policing strategy in that period, including: the race riots of the late 1950s and then the 1980s; the constraining of police autonomy and the conclusions of the Scarman Review (1981) the enactment of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) and the creation of the Crown Prosecution Service (1986); the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, and the subsequent Macpherson Report into the police investigation into that murder.

We will enquire into the public’s experience of, satisfaction with, and confidence in the police, considering the decline and subsequent attempts to rebuild public trust. We will describe two decades of ‘modernisation’ from the late 1980s to the late 1990s in the context of popular perception of the need for a return to ‘Law and Order’. We will analyse the paradoxical relationship between the modernisation agenda and the decline in public confidence in the police. We will consider the changes in the legal framework in a period when the political focus might be said to have shifted from policing crime to reducing the fear of crime and tackling anti social behaviour.
Readings

Robert Reiner, the Politics of the Police, pages 78-94

Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people, HMSO, 2010

Class 11  Course Summary

In this lesson we will review the course and draw conclusions about policing and justice in the global city. We will consider how the forthcoming national decision to remain a member of the European Union may affect security and freedom in London, and how these issues are addressed in political and public discourse.

Class 12  Course Exam