Stanford University Department of Public Safety
Community Public Safety Academy

2024 Syllabus

The Stanford University Department of Public Safety (SUDPS) has a long history of providing a variety of safety, security, and law enforcement services to the Stanford community. In 2005, SUDPS implemented our first Community Public Safety Academy. Then, as now, it was a ten-week course offered Winter Quarter that provides participants the opportunity to experience a professional life in public safety, with some specific insights into policing on a university campus. Over the years we have worked to refine a blend of classroom instruction, discussion, and hands-on activities. The 2019 course was the first in which the added reading and discussion component more fully explored the larger issues in modern policing, which has been preserved to a reasonable degree for the credit provided.

The SUDPS Community Public Safety Academy is a comprehensive program designed to foster positive relationships between the Stanford Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the community it serves. This academy offers an in-depth understanding of law enforcement operations, protocols, and procedures. Participants will gain insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement officers and the DPS's commitment to ensuring safety, security, and justice on the Stanford campus and in the surrounding community.

Course Objectives

- To develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of public safety officers within the Stanford Department of Public Safety.
- To promote transparency and open communication between the community and public safety.
- To increase public awareness of the challenges and complexities faced by public safety officers.
- To provide participants with practical knowledge on personal safety, crime prevention, and emergency preparedness.
- To engage in constructive dialogue and foster positive relationships between the community and the Stanford Department of Public Safety.

Attendance

The SUDPS Community Police Academy will meet each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., beginning on January 10, 2024 and ending on March 13. Sessions will be located at the Public Safety Building, at 233 Bonair Siding Road, unless otherwise noted. Dinner will be provided each time we meet. This class is open (free of charge) to all Stanford students, faculty, staff, and residents who qualify in the application process. With recognition that the class is a significant time commitment, we hope that you attend all sessions to get the most out of the experience.
Course Credit (Stanford Students)

Students may choose to register for LAWGEN 209Q to earn one unit (credit / no credit) for participation in this course. Students enrolled for credit are expected to attend each session and are responsible for participating in discussion during each class.

Schedule

Class instruction will fall on the following dates:

January 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28
March 6, 13

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS 1: 1/10/24 – Introduction and Orientation to DPS / Officer selection, hiring, & training

This class will provide an introduction to the Community Public Safety Academy as well as an overview of the Department of Public Safety’s operations. We will discuss what makes SUDPS unique compared to other law enforcement agencies and how its philosophies and values shape the way it serves the Stanford community as well as take an interactive tour of the Public Safety Building. The second half of the class will be a presentation on how deputies are selected, hired, and trained. This presentation will look into what steps it takes to become a law enforcement officer.


Hiring for the 21st century law enforcement officer Challenges, opportunities, and strategies for success (Kevin Morison 2017) https://dataspace.princeton.edu/handle/88435/dsp01s4655k34b

CLASS 2: 1/17/24 – Divisions of DPS, what makes a good witness and 911 Operations

This class provides a comprehensive understanding of the various divisions within the Stanford Department of Public Safety (DPS). We will discuss the key attributes of an effective witness, and have a deeper understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities associated with being a good witness. Finally, Police Dispatchers will give an overview of how 911 operations work. This presentation will provide a comprehensive understanding of the critical role played by 911 operators and police dispatchers in emergency response and public safety. Students will learn essential skills, procedures, and protocols required to effectively handle emergency calls, dispatch law enforcement personnel, and ensure the safety of both the public and first responders.


The Revolution in Emergency Communications: Police Research Forum:
https://www.policeforum.org/assets/EmergencyCommunications.pdf
CLASS 3:  1/24/24 – Santa Clara County Victim Services, YWCA, SHARE Title IX, DPS Investigations & Crime Lab

In this segment of the course, we delve into the invaluable partnerships between law enforcement agencies, victim service organizations, and crime investigation units. Students will gain insight into the roles and functions of Santa Clara County Victim Services, the YWCA, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Investigations and the County Crime Lab. Understanding these collaborations is essential for ensuring that victims of crime receive comprehensive support and that law enforcement agencies can effectively investigate and solve cases.

https://countyda.sccgov.org/victim-services/victim-services-unit
https://yourywca.stanford.edu/
https://share.stanford.edu/
https://countyda.sccgov.org/prosecution/departments/crime-laboratory

CLASS 4:  1/31/24 – Stadium Control Tour, K-9 Demonstration and Criminal Law

This session offers students a unique opportunity to explore various facets of criminal justice, from facility security and law enforcement capabilities to the intricacies of criminal law and the role of district attorneys. Through a tour of Stanford University Stadium Control, a police K-9 demonstration, and a presentation by a District Attorney, students will gain practical insights into different aspects of the criminal justice system.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: The Inquisitive Prosecutor’s Guide
https://countyda.sccgov.org/publications/inquisitive-prosecutors-guide

CLASS 5:  2/7/24 – StEMS, Behavioral Threat Assessment and Crime Prevention, Public Safety Officer Presentation.

This session offers students an in-depth look into the comprehensive approach to campus safety and emergency response at Stanford University. It covers key elements such as Stanford StEMS (Student Emergency Medical Services), Campus Behavioral Threat Assessment, Crime Prevention, and the roles and responsibilities of Public Safety Officers. Through this diverse set of topics, students will gain insight into the various dimensions of ensuring safety and security on a college campus.

Optional Secondary Source Reading:
https://www.tsc.edu/images/Behavioral_Intervention_Team/Threat_Assessment_in_the_Campus_Setting.pdf
https://stems.stanford.edu/
CLASS 6: 2/14/24 – DUI Wet Lab
In this engaging and informative class, participants will delve into the laws regulating alcohol, explore the concept of legal impairment, and gain practical experience in administering field sobriety tests. Through a unique and hands-on “Wet Lab” session, students will learn how to assess whether an individual is too intoxicated to drive, offering valuable insights into law enforcement and public safety.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving

CLASS 7: 2/21/24 – CLERY Act, Active Threat training, and Stanford Emergency Management
This course offers a comprehensive exploration of critical topics related to campus safety, compliance with the Clery Act, active threat response training, and the role of Stanford Emergency Management. Through a combination of legal and practical insights, participants will gain a deep understanding of their responsibilities in maintaining a secure and prepared campus environment.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: Clery Center; https://www.clerycenter.org/the-clery-act
https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/active-shooter-safety-resources
https://police.stanford.edu/active-threat.html

Class 8: 2/28/24 – Special Events, Officer Safety & Use of Force
Participants will gain insights into how the Department of Public Safety (DPS) manages security for approximately 450 special events each year, ranging from high-profile sports games to VIP visits. Additionally, the session will delve into critical aspects of officer safety, including when and how the use of force is justified. Through discussions, demonstrations, and scenario analysis, participants will develop a well-rounded understanding of these crucial topics.

**Violent media content warning - this meeting contains video and audio of real police responses in which force is used. Stepping away during video or audio portions of the class will not negatively impact your experience or grade.

Optional Secondary Source Reading: An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force (Fryer, 2017)

CLASS 9: 3/6/24 – Force Options Simulator /Traffic Stop Scenario
This immersive class provides participants with a unique opportunity to experience and understand the complexities of use of force situations and traffic stops. Through the use of a state-of-the-art use of force simulator, participants will be exposed to realistic scenarios and decision-making processes. The class aims to enhance participants' awareness, decision-making skills, and empathy in law enforcement encounters.
In this culminating class session, participants will have the unique opportunity to engage in a panel discussion and Q&A session with the Chief of Police and select police staff. The session will provide valuable insights into law enforcement leadership, departmental operations, and the perspectives of seasoned professionals. The class will conclude with a graduation ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments and growth of the participants.

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