Stanford University Department of Public Safety
Community Police Academy

2015 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 Police Academy, a ten-week course in winter quarter that provides participants the opportunity to experience the professional life of a police officer. Through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on activities, the intent of the course is to expand the participant's knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer, while also demonstrating the constraints in which myriad decisions must be made. The goal of the Community Police Academy is to demystify public safety, build trust, and develop a partnership between the department and the Stanford community.

Attendance

The SUDPS Community Police Academy will meet each Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 8:30pm, beginning on January 7 and ending on March 11. Sessions will be located at the Police Compound at 679 Pampas Lane, unless otherwise noted. Dinner will be provided at each session. This class is open (free of charge) to all Stanford students, staff, and residents.

Course Credit

Students may choose to register for LAWGEN 209Q through Axess 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 composing a brief paper (12 pt. font, single-spaced, 2/3 to 1 page long) in reflection of the previous class session. These papers must be submitted via email to vincent.bergado@stanford.edu by noon on the following Wednesday. A reflection on a field trip or ride-along may be substituted for a pre-approved absence.
Materials

We will not follow a textbook, and there are no pre-assigned reading materials. Some sessions may reference supplementary resources that will be distributed in class or via email.

Tentative Schedule

Classes will fall on the following dates:

January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25
March 4, 11

1/7/15 - Meet, Greet, & EAT!

What do all of the different public safety uniforms represent? Are Stanford deputies “real police”? This class will provide an introduction to the Community Police Academy program 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.

1/14/15 - Enforcing the Law: Spirit vs. Letter

What is the difference between the spirit of the law and the letter of the law? How does the 4th Amendment affect law enforcement? How does it protect the public? This lecture will cover the powers of arrest, penal code sections, search warrant requirements, judicial process, and the increasing number of areas of civil liability to which law enforcement officers and police departments are exposed.

(Main Jail Field Trip TBA)

1/21/15 - Public Crimes: Persons & Property

What’s the difference between burglary and theft? What does “CPTED” stand for? How does the Department of Public Safety help victims of crime regain their sense of security? What other resources are available to victims of crime on and off campus? This session will discuss Stanford’s most common type of crime and what the department does to prevent it.

1/28/15 - DUI Wet Lab

What happens to the body when alcohol is consumed? What are some of the laws around alcohol? When is someone considered to be legally under the influence? Participants will learn about alcohol and DUI laws, and then practice field sobriety tests on carefully monitored subjects who are under the influence of alcohol in a controlled setting. Will you be able to tell who is too intoxicated to drive?
2/4/15 - CSI vs. Reality
How do evidence collection methods shown on TV compare to the tools and techniques used in real life? Learn about how evidence is identified and collected – and then try out the techniques on mock crime scenes. This class will also include a visit from DPS’s police sketch artist.

2/11/15 - Officer Defensive Tactics & Use of Force
How do Deputies protect themselves and what techniques do they use to ensure scene safety? When is the use of force justified? This class will include demonstrations of police defensive tactics as well as an opportunity for participants to practice some self defense moves.

2/18/15 - Emergency Communications
Where does your 911 call go? What does 10-31A mean? What’s an 11-54? Why aren’t crime alerts issued more immediately? This session will examine communication procedures and challenges by following the path of information provided by a witness of a crime, to dispatcher, to first responders, and to the university’s AlertSU notification team.

2/25/15 - Special Events, Tactical Readiness, & K-9 Explosive Detection
Each year, DPS assists approximately 450 special events from nationally televised football games with sold out crowds to visits by dignitaries and other VIPs. In this session, we’ll talk about how the department plans for these events and the security services we provide, including a demonstration by a department explosive ordinance detection (EOD) K-9.

Federal legislation requires the University to be transparent about the crimes that occur on and near campus. What proactive measures does the University take to identify and mitigate potential threats? This session will explore the university’s violence prevention efforts and discuss what individuals can do to increase their personal safety, with special consideration for an active threat (i.e. active shooter).

3/11/15 - Bringing it All Together: A Day in the Life!
You will be given the opportunity to step into a full-circle, hands-on scenario where you will be able to oversee, evaluate, and role-play in a case from the beginning to the end. Certificates will be distributed to graduates and we will follow up with any questions you may have with regards to the curriculum.
Field Trips

Several field trips will be offered in addition to the weekly class sessions – scheduled either on another week night or during the weekend. Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. Transportation will be provided based upon sign-ups in the weeks prior to the trip.

Ride Along

Participants are encouraged to jump in the passenger seat and patrol with a deputy for a one-on-one opportunity to learn more about law enforcement on campus. Signups will be circulated beginning during the second week of class.