

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Human Rights Policing Certificate of Completion
August 16 – September 24, 2021

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Human Rights Policing Certificate of Completion. This six-week fully online, asynchronous training provides law enforcement agents the opportunity to complete a human rights policing certificate around their work schedule.

Students will explore and examine the foundational concepts of the course, including the criminological imagination, human rights, and the history of policing, and the relevance of these concepts to their daily police work. Class participants will also consider, analyze, and discuss important topics including, but not limited to those related to the criminal justice system and police use of force.

A unique learning feature of the course is the incorporation of a community engagement experience in which participants explore how others outside law enforcement understand and define human rights as related to policing. This assignment concludes by a follow-up discussion with their classmates and is designed to help police deepen their personal understanding of and gain insight into how others perceive human rights in policing.

Finally, class participants will use their own experiences on the job to address how human rights policing can be applied to everyday interactions with members of the community. In today's political climate, we believe that human rights policing training can support law enforcement agents in doing their job humanely, as well as to help protect them legally while addressing the many challenges they face in keeping our communities safe.

WEEKLY AGENDA

This six-week class consists of six major themes with one online discussion board on selected topics required each week. The discussion board within each weekly module will include a lecture/discussion, community engagement activity, links to short articles, videos, podcasts, songs, and/or other material that will serve as the bases of our weekly class discussions.

COURSE & CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Discussion Boards (Total 84 Points)

There will be one discussion board each week related to the topics covered that week. A minimum of two postings (7 points each) will be required for each weekly discussion board as follows:

1. One original response to the week's topic: due Thursday of each week at 11:59 pm CST
2. One in-depth response post to peers' original posts: due Saturday of each week at 6:00 pm CST

Discussion Board Scoring Rubric

Category	Exemplary (7-6 Points)	Proficient (5-4 Points)	Limited (3-2 Points)	Incomplete (1-0 Points)
Critical Analysis	In-depth and excellent critical analysis of topic. Details and examples are different from those submitted by other participants. Introduces excellent real-world examples by way of external links/videos/news, etc., and explains its relation to the topic. Subject knowledge is excellent.	Displays clear knowledge and critically analyzes the topic. Introduces good real-world examples by way of external links/videos/news, etc. Subject knowledge appears to be good and is different from postings submitted by other participants earlier.	Discussion posts contain the bare minimum of critical thought; participant shows a less-than basic understanding of course material and does not add anything.	Content of discussion posts contain no critical analysis of the course material; participant copies from text or other participants verbatim or paraphrased without adding anything.
Participation	Posts more than two original posts and/or more than two reply posts to peers throughout the course of the corresponding week; all posts are engaging, thoughtful and critical to the text, lecture and peers; participant is clearly actively engaged and adds knowledge to course.	Posts two original and two reply posts by the due dates that are clear, thoughtful, and critical.	Posts at least one original and one reply post by due dates.	Posts once or no threads to discussion board; posts are late in a way that does not benefit peer feedback.
Written Proficiency (Grammar, Spelling)	No grammar/spelling errors; quality of writing is excellent.	Discussion postings have fewer than three grammar/spelling mistakes; mistakes do not distract from content and quality.	Discussion posts contain many (at least four) grammar/spelling mistakes; postings are minimally coherent.	Amount of grammar and spelling errors make discussion posts extremely difficult to understand.

Final Report (16 Points)

The goal of this one-page assignment is to give participants the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of human rights and consider how human rights may be applied in their respective contexts. The successful report will synthesize learning from course materials and assignments, contributions by their colleagues and the analysis of their own policing context.

GRADING

Participants can earn a total of 100 points for the class and require a minimum of 70 points to earn the certificate.

Assignment/Activity	Points
Discussion Board Posts	84
Final Report	16
Total	100

Final Grade Scale

Grade	Total Points
Exemplary	100-90
Proficient	89-80
Limited	79-70
Incomplete	Below 70

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Make-up Material: If any scheduling conflicts arise, please let us know if you need more time to complete any class activities. Class participants have until October 30, 2020 to complete the training.

Attendance: Please regularly log into canvas to check up on discussions, lectures, comments, news, posts, and so on.

Assignments: Please read the required articles, videos, documentaries in the links provided in the lecture for each discussion board.

Participation: Participate in online class discussion through reading the discussion/lecture, reading your peers' posts, asking thoughtful questions, making thought-provoking comments, and adding something unique to each discussion.

INSTRUCTORS

Peter Marina received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the New School for Social Research in New York City and currently works as a sociologist at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Dr. Marina’s work incorporates the striking dialectic of history and biography that allows him to penetrate and interact with a wide range of culturally diverse social groups — from public high school youths and street kids, to police officers and Hispanic immigrants, to religiously inspired residents of the inner-city and charismatic religious leaders in the Caribbean, and most recently, to down and out urban dwellers — in a quest to make empirical and theoretical sense of this rapidly changing, surprising and highly contradictory late-modern world. Marina’s latest books *Down and Out in New Orleans: Transgressive Living in the Informal Economy* (Columbia University Press) and *Chasing Religion in the Caribbean: Ethnographic Journeys from Antigua to Trinidad* (Palgrave Macmillan) at petermarina.com.

Pedro Marina is a retired New Orleans Police Lieutenant for the New Orleans Police Department with thirty years of law enforcement experience in the Big Easy. He graduated from the University of New Orleans with a degree in sociology and joined the New Orleans Police Department in 1975. Before being promoted to the Civil Service rank of sergeant he served in the Vice Crime Section, the Second Police District in uptown New Orleans as a patrol officer, the Robbery Unit of the Major Crimes Division, the Special Operations Bureau as a SWAT officer and twelve years as narcotics agent. After being promoted to sergeant, Marina served in the Eighth District in the New Orleans French Quarter as a platoon supervisor before returning to the Narcotics Section as a platoon commander. While serving in that section he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and reassigned to the Eighth District as platoon commander. Lieutenant Marina retired in 2003 from the Third Police District where he was serving as a platoon commander. During his career, the Lieutenant received numerous awards for exemplary performance in the line of duty. Upon retirement, he returned to the University of New Orleans where he earned a certification to teach social studies and Spanish, after which he taught Spanish Lakeshore High School in Mandeville, Louisiana for almost two decades.

Instructor Contact Information:

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HUMAN RIGHTS POLICING COURSE OUTLINE

Week One: Introduction to Human Rights Policing

Sections:

- Class Welcome and Participant Introductions
- Class Summary
- The Criminological Imagination
- Determinism versus Agency
- Verstehen: Understanding the Meaning of Action from the Actor's Point of View
- Points of Departure
- Discussion Board Question

Brief Summary: We begin the class with instructor and participant introductions, followed by an overview of class content, assignments, and expectations for students. Class participants are introduced to the *criminological imagination*, as well as other important concepts, e.g., *human agency*, that will be used throughout the class. The week continues with a discussion of the concept of *verstehen* and its relationship to policing communities. We end with a discussion board question that brings together the lessons learned in this first week and prepare students for week two. The Discussion Board will focus on how police officers can use *verstehen* in their everyday police work.

Week Two: Understanding Human Rights and the History of Policing

Sections:

- Defining Human Rights
- History of Human Rights
- Examples of Human Rights
- History of Policing
- Relevance of Human Rights to Policing Communities

Brief Summary: This week focuses on defining and understanding the concept of human rights and tracing its history, as well as providing specific examples of human rights. We will then define policing and review its history in the United States. We end by discussing the relevance of human rights to policing and discuss its practical application to policing a community.

Week Three: An Examination of the U.S. Criminal Justice System

Sections:

- 13th Amendment

Brief Summary: This week takes an in depth look at the criminal justice system in the United States, including an analysis of the documentary 13th Amendment.

Week Four: Engaging with the Community: Tales from the Field

Sections:

- Engaging with members of the community on human rights

Brief Summary: This week requires class participants to engage with one or more members of the community outside of the law enforcement field (university students or professors, black lives matter activists, religious groups, grassroots organizers, high school students, YWCA, and/or other community organizations) to discuss human rights. The purpose of this assignment is to understand human rights from the points of view of community members. Details will be discussed in (online) class.

Week Five: Applying Human Rights Policing to Real Life Policing Situations

Sections:

- Applying Human Rights Policing: Stories from other U.S. Departments
- Applying Human Rights Policing: Community Interactions and Calls for Service
- Applying Human Rights Policing: Real Life Local Policing Situations in Your Department

Brief Summary:

Week Five applies our understanding of human rights policing to job performance, specifically to the unique culture and politics that exist in local police departments. First we look applying human rights policing to everyday policing interactions with the community from stories written by police from other U.S. police departments. Next, we discuss how we can apply human rights policing to specific cases of police use of force taken from first-hand accounts of police officers. We also apply how human rights policing might inform how we handle responses to calls of service written by members of this class.

Week Six: Applying Human Rights Policing While on the Job

Sections:

- Police officer examples of Human Rights Policing.

Brief Summary:

The discussion board for this week focuses on participants' personal stories of applying course concepts 'on the job' while taking the class.

Final Assignment: Course participants complete the course by writing a one-page paper explaining real life examples of their application of human rights policing to their jobs while taking this class.

Congratulations on completing the Human Rights Policing Certificate.