

## NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

### PSY 250 - LAW ENFORCEMENT PSYCHOLOGY (3 CR.)

#### **Course Description**

Studies the psychology of police work in interpersonal or intergroup situations. Includes topics such as prejudice, suggestion, emotion, frustration, and aggression. Lecture 3 hours per week.

#### **General Course Purpose**

To provide the student with the understanding of police work in personal or group situations.

#### **Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Prerequisites: PSY 100, PSY 125, or division approval.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Understand theories related to law enforcement psychology.
- Understand and explain the importance of law enforcement personnel wellness: physically and mentally.
- Delineate and explain the symptoms of PTSD and compassion fatigue.
- Describe ways in which to deal with interpersonal and intergroup concerns.
- Understand the levels of awareness and how they can lead to officer complacency.
- Understand how prejudice affects police and probation/parole work.
- Identify appropriate and inappropriate ways of obtaining reliable and accurate information from eyewitnesses and victims.
- Describe the special concerns associated with the interviewing of children, youth, and learning-disabled adults.
- Describe the common emotional response of people working in law enforcement and how they may affect performance.
- Describe and apply important human and community relations principles and strategies.

#### **Major Topics to be Covered**

- Selection, evaluation, and mental health assessment of police officers
- Interpersonal relations: Verbal Judo
- Intergroup issues and cooperation between law enforcement agencies
- Prejudice within law enforcement, with civilians, and perpetrators
- Community Policing versus Problem-Solving Policing
- Emotion: Superman Syndrome and "Cop on the Beat"
- Frustration: Stress and Burnout
- Aggression: Excessive and Microaggression in racial profiling
- Ethics
- Power of Suggestion in Police interrogations
- Cultural considerations and issues within law enforcement, with civilians and perpetrators
- Gender and Sexuality Issues within law enforcement
- Addressing Domestic Violence: inside and outside law enforcement families
- Compassionate fatigue or secondary trauma

#### **Optional Topics**

- Debriefing after critical incidents and PTSD
- Being Blue: culture in law enforcement