Copwatch: Community Based Police Accountability

Spring 2018

Copwatch Primary Contact Email: copwatchdecal@gmail.com

Class Facilitators:

Peyton Provenzano: peytonprov@berkeley.edu
Alex Li: alexli98@berkeley.edu

Class meetings:
Mondays 5:00-6:30pm
Location: TBA

Class Overview:
Through a combination of class presentations by leading activists in the alternative justice movement and direct field monitoring of police on duty, students will experience first hand the complex issues faced by residents caught between high crime in their neighborhoods and the dangers that racial profiling, civil and human rights abuses bring to the community. Students will be trained in basic criminal procedure, power analysis, and techniques for observing police activity. In addition, students will examine the history and origins of police, resistance movements, and community based alternatives to the justice system as we know it.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this semester, students will:

- Know and be able to assert their rights when stopped by police
- Be able to identify constitutional police practices and procedures
- Be able to document police misconduct and know how to evaluate a potential case for civil rights violations
- Be able to interact with civil authorities in pursuit of individual complaints and learn how to file Public Records Act requests
- Analyze the causes of police misconduct and recommend possible solutions

Student requirements

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students may not have more than two unexcused absences in order to pass. Please notify us via email if you think you will need to miss class.

Homework/Readings: Students should come to class having read the assigned reading and prepared to ask questions and discuss related topics.

Copwatch Shifts: Each student is **required** to participate in five (5) Copwatch shifts. Shifts can be spent Copwatching or participating in office, outreach or other work to contribute to and better understand community organizing. At least (3) street observations; copwatching at protests and rallies count as shifts.

Assignments:

- Each student will be **required** to write two 1-2 page reflections about their experience of observing police, research, case-work, an assigned reading, etc. Due dates are 02/26 & 04/09
- Students will be **required** to write a public records request for information from a public institution (university, police, nonprofits, etc).
- Students are expected to stay up-to-date on current events related to policing. Newspapers are a good resource. Students should spend about 1.5 hrs/week reading news. Other resources will be provided in class. We will open each class with a current events discussion.
- **Final assignment** based on students' individual interests. Project/presentation proposals need to be approved in advance. Video yourself giving a KYR presentation, write a three page paper or demonstrate your understanding of a contemporary issue in policing in some other way (depending on facilitator approval). Due date is 04/23 (our last class)

Grading

- Shifts, class attendance, participation, and written work are all required to receive a passing grade.

Spring 2018 Semester Schedule

Readings are due the week after they are assigned.

January 22

Introduction to Community Based Police Accountability

- Begin Know Your Rights Legal Training/Techniques
    - Excerpts from: Video as Evidence Field Guide- Witness (on bcourses)

January 29

Monitoring Techniques and Documentation

- Homework for next week:
    - **Assignment**: Review timeline of policing and come to class with 3 dates and events from http://criticalresistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/policing_timelinenew.pdf
    - Recommended Reading: "The Iron Fist and the Velvet Glove" (on bcourses)
    - Recommended Reading: Washington Post findings on Police Shootings, also review the database http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/investigative/wp/2015/12/26/2015/12/26/a-year-of-reckoning-police-fatally-shoot-nearly-1000/

February 5

History and Role of the Police:

- Guest speaker : Andrea Pritchett
- **Reading for next class**: Al Jazeera article on Urban Shield http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/4/urban-shield-policemilitarizationoakland.htm
- Stop Urban Shield Coalition, skim website: http://stopurbanshield.org/
    - Think about: What are the main arguments against participation in Urban Shield?

February 12

Militarization and Urban Shield

- Assignment Reminder: **Reflection #1 due February 26**
- **Possible Guest speaker: John Lindsay Poland**
- **Reading for next class**: The People's Investigation of the Death of Kayla Moore
- http://www.berkeleycopwatch.org/resources/Peoples_Investigation_Kayla_Moore_2013.pdf

February 19 No Class Enjoy President's Day!

February 26

Police and Mental Health: Case Study of the Death of Kayla Moore

- Guest Speaker: Maria Moore/ Charlotte Halloran-Couch
- Check PRA completion from students
- **Reading**: CONCRN Compassionate Responders Handbook (will be distributed in class)

March 5

Policing of Mental Health and Alternative Models

- Community-based Alternatives for Mental Health Crisis Response presentation
- **Reading:** Oakland Police Commission Proposal
- http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/cityadministrator/documents/agenda/oak063961.pdf
- https://www.aclunc.org/blog/frequently-asked-questions-about-copley-press-and-sb-1019

March 12

Police Review Commission: Overview of functions, updates on happenings and Police Commission proposal

- Guest Speaker: Andrea Prichett
    - Public Records Act Request: Mechanism for demanding accountability
    - **Assignment for next class:** Complete PRA Requests Homeless policies and letter from Emily Johns
- **Reading for next class:** will assign article on homeless encampments

March 19

Berkeley's Response to the Homeless Community

- First They Came for The Homeless (JP Masser/boona cheema/MIke Zint? Lawyer-Emily Johns) Discuss ideas for final project- Check in with students

- **Reading for next class:**

https://media-alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Berkeley-CPE-Report.pdf

- **Reading: Summary of findings of Urban Displacement Project Study:**

http://www.urbandisplacement.org/sites/default/files/images/urban_displacement_project_-_executive_summary.pdf & explore Anti-Eviction Mapping Project website http://www.antievictionmap.com

April 2

Structures and Tactics of Resistance

- Anti Police Terror Project (APTP)
- Guest Speaker: Nanci Armstrong-Temple
- **Discuss Final Project requirements
- REMINDER REFLECTION #2 DUE NEXT CLASS

April 9

The Role of Police in Racial Profiling/ Gentrification & Structural Racism

- Chief Greenwood says that racism is a societal issue that the police force cannot combat.
  - Should we expect police to mitigate racial profiling on the force? CAN the police do anything to stop racial profiling or is racism inherent in the "policing" structure and mission?
  - Guest Speaker: Marcel Jones
  - Assignment Due: **Reflection #2 in class**
  - **Reading: "Build the Block" Rachel Herzing pdf.**

April 16

Community Control and Making Police Obsolete: Guest speaker Rachel Herzing?

- **Reading:** Excerpt from The New Jim Crow, will be handed out in class.
- **Reading:** People's Investigation of Police Response to December 2014 Protests
- **Reading:** Review timeline of Dec 6 & 7 protests and complete People's Investigation timeline scavenger hunt before class

  Timeline available here: http://berkeleycopwatch.org/timeline/

April 23

Alex Li: Advanced Copwatching Techniques (Referring to Video As Evidence Guide)

Last Class: Evaluation and Presentations

- **Assignment Due: Final Project

Instructor of Record will supervise the student course facilitators by approving the syllabus and being
available to answer questions, and connect us with resources related to the course (recommend recent
articles, update us on upcoming events). Jonathan Simon will also be shared on a google doc where
student attendance and assignment grades will be updated weekly.