MODEL ACADEMIC CURRICULUM FOR PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

Introduction – This curriculum has been designed for undergraduate education, but with minor modifications it can be used for graduate-level education, pre-service police training, in-service police training, and/or community-based training. We recommend that students complete an undergraduate policing course as a prerequisite to this course.

The curriculum has multiple components that are flexible and can be adapted for use in other courses or formats (e.g., in-service training, online delivery). Included in the complete curriculum are the following components:

1) The suggested course outline with active links to class readings;

2) Fourteen learning modules (in PowerPoint), developed for a standard 14-16 week college course;

3) Suggestions and/or links for in-class and out-of-class exercises and assignments;

4) Recommended class readings for each learning module;

5) Suggestions for relevant video and online resources;

6) Suggested exercises for other instructional settings (e.g., graduate courses, in-service training).

The following textbook is recommended for this course regardless of the students/setting:


Additional recommended readings for graduate-level courses and similar settings are listed (within each module) at the end of the syllabus.

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PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

Module 1 – The Evolution of Policing

Topics
- Fundamental Objectives of Policing and the Primary Police Functions
- A Brief History of Policing
- Policing Styles and Strategies
  - Types of Patrol
  - Broken Windows Theory
  - One Traditional Police Response - The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns

Module 2 – Community Policing

Topics
- The Early History of Community Policing
- Community Policing – An Overview
- Community Oriented Policing versus Problem Oriented Policing (or COP and POP?)

Module 3 – Introduction to Problem Oriented Policing

Topics
- POP and the History of POP
- Defining a Problem
- Key Elements of POP
- Why Use POP Today?

Recommended Video

1) Sam Walker’s Interview of Herman Goldstein (70 minutes); Available for viewing or downloading at www.popcenter.org.
Module 4 – The SARA Model

Topics
- The SARA Process
- Problem Solving Case Studies

www.popcenter.org
CRIME THEORIES & SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION

Module 5 – Crime Theories and Crime Opportunity

Topics
- The Problem Analysis Triangle
- Routine Activities Theory
- Crime Pattern Theory
- Rational Choice Theory
- 10 Principles of Crime Opportunity

Module 6 – Situational Crime Prevention

Topics
- An Overview of Situational Crime Prevention
- Problem Oriented Policing and Situational Crime Prevention
- 25 Techniques of Situational Crime Prevention

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Module 7 – Identifying and Researching Problems

Topics
- Identifying and Researching a Problem
- Using Available Research Tools

Module 8 – Problem Solving Resources

Topics
- Problem Specific Guides for Police - Problem Solving Guides Overview; About the Guide Series
- Response Guides
- Problem Solving Tools Guides
- Award Winning Problem Solving Projects; Goldstein Award Winners; Tilley Awards

Online Exercise

Module 9 - Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps

Topics
- Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps

Online Exercise
RETURNING TO THE CRIME TRIANGLE – RESPONDING TO PLACES, OFFENDERS, AND TARGETS/VICTIMS

Module 10 – Responding to Crime Places

**Topics**
- Hot Spots
- Risky Facilities
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Displacement and Displacement Theory
- Closing Streets and Alleys to Reduce Crime

**Examples of Place-focused POP Guides for Use in This Module**
- Assaults in and Around Bars
- Burglary of Retail Establishments
- Disorder at Budget Motels
- Drug Dealing in Open Air Markets
- Robbery at ATMs
- School Vandalism
- Speeding in Residential Areas
- Video Surveillance of Public Places

Module 11 – Responding to Offenders

**Topics**
- Thinking and Acting Like an Offender
- Using Offender Interviews to Inform Police Problem Solving
- An Example of an Offender-Based Response – The Boston Gun Project: Operational Cease Fire

**Examples of Offender-focused POP Guides for Use in This Module**
- Bullying in Schools
- Disorderly Youth in Public Places
- Drunk Driving
- Gun Violence among Serious Young Offenders
- Panhandling
- Street Prostitution
- Underage Drinking

Module 12 – Responding to Targets/Victims

**Topics**
- Analyzing Repeat Victimization
- Understanding Your Local Repeat Victimization Pattern

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- Responding to Repeat Victimization

**Examples of Target/Victim-focused POP Guides for Use in this Module**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquaintance Rape of College Students</th>
<th>Identity Theft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bomb Threats</td>
<td>Robbery of Taxi Drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes against Tourists</td>
<td>Runaway Juveniles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Pornography</td>
<td>Stalking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploitation of Trafficked Women</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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[www.popcenter.org](http://www.popcenter.org)
Module 13 – Assessing and Evaluating Responses

**Topics**
- Assessment and Evaluation - [Assessing Responses to Problems](#)
- [Conducting Community Surveys](#)

**Examples of Useful Tool Guides for Use in this Module**
- Forming and Sustaining Partnerships with Businesses
- Crime Prevention Publicity Campaigns

Module 14 – Challenges and Future Considerations for Implementing Successful POP Projects

**Topics**
- **Time** - The 4th (missing) Dimension of the Problem Analysis Triangle
- Barriers to Implementation
- [Shifting and Sharing Responsibility for Public Safety Problems](#)
- Some Major Impediments to Further POP Implementation and Progress

[www.popcenter.org](#)
SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS FOR GRADUATE COURSES OR OTHER UPPER LEVEL SETTINGS

Module 1 – The Evolution of Policing


Module 2 – Community Policing


Module 3 – Introduction to Problem Oriented Policing


www.popcenter.org
Module 4 – The SARA Model


Module 5 – Crime Theories and Crime Opportunity


Module 6 – Situational Crime Prevention


Module 7 – Identifying and Researching Problems


Module 8 – Problem Solving Resources

1) Online readings/resources only.

www.popcenter.org
Module 9 - Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps


Module 10 – Responding to Crime Places


Module 11 – Responding to Offenders


**Module 12 – Responding to Targets/Victims**


**Module 13 – Assessing and Evaluating Responses**


Module 14 – Challenges and Future Considerations for Implementing Successful POP Projects
