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.

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Module 4 – The SARA Model

**Topics**
- The SARA Process
- Problem-Solving Case Studies
CRIME THEORIES & SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION

Module 5 – Crime Theories and Crime Opportunity

Topics
- The Problem Analysis Triangle
- Routine Activities Theory, Crime Pattern Theory, and 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
RESEARCHING/SCANNING AND ANALYZING PROBLEMS

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 Awards
  - Tilley Awards

Online Exercise

1) Street Prostitution Module

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

Topics
- Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps

Online Exercise

1) Problem Analysis Module (PAM)
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: Operation 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
  - Responding to Repeat Victimization

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

www.popcenter.org
Acquaintance Rape of College Students
Bomb Threats in Schools
Child Pornography on the Internet
Crimes Against Tourists
Exploitation of Trafficked Women

Identity Theft
Juvenile Runaways
Robbery of Taxi Drivers
Stalking
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](#)
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


3) POP Center (2006). What Is Problem-Oriented Policing?

4) POP Center (2006). The Key Elements of POP.

Module 4 – The SARA Model


www.popcenter.org
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.

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**

