



## 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:

**Braga, Anthony (2008). *Problem-Oriented Policing and Crime Prevention*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boulder, CO: [Lynne Rienner Publishers](#).**

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](#).

## 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**



[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](#)

**ASSESSING YOUR PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGY AND OTHER  
CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTING POP PROJECTS**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> (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

- 1) Weisburd, D. & Eck, J. E. (2004, May). [What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?](#) *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Vol. 593: 42-65.
- 2) Sampson, R. J. & Raudenbush, Stephen, W. (2001, February). [Disorder in Urban Neighborhoods: Does It Lead to Crime?](#) Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 3) Scott, Michael, S. (2004). [The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns](#). Center for Problem Oriented Policing.

### Module 2 – Community Policing

- 1) Moore, Mark H. (1992). Problem-Solving and Community Policing. [Crime and Justice](#). Vol. 15: 99-158.
- 2) U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (2006). [What Is Community Policing?](#)

### Module 3 – Introduction to Problem Oriented Policing

- 1) Scott, Michael, S. (2000, October). [Problem-Oriented Policing: Reflections on the First 20 Years](#). Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.
- 2) Goldstein, H. (1979, April). [Improving Policing: A Problem Oriented Approach](#). *Crime and Delinquency*. Vol. 25: 236-258.
- 3) POP Center (2006). [What Is Problem-Oriented Policing?](#)
- 4) POP Center (2006). [The Key Elements of POP](#).

### Module 4 – The SARA Model

- 1) U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (2002). [Problem Solving Tips: A Guide to Reducing Crime and Disorder through Problem-Solving Partnerships](#). Washington D.C.
- 2) Problem-Oriented Policing Center (2006). [The SARA Model](#).



## **Module 5 – Crime Theories and Crime Opportunity**

- 1) Felson, M. & Clarke, R. V. (1998). [Opportunity Makes the Thief: Practical Theory for Crime Prevention](#). Home Office: Research Development Statistics.
- 2) Felson, Marcus. (2004). *Crime and Everyday Life*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press; Chapters 1-5.
- 3) Kelling, George and Wilson, James Q. (1982) [Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety](#). *The Atlantic Monthly*. Vol. 249 (3): 29-38.

## **Module 6 – Situational Crime Prevention**

- 1) Clarke, Ronald V. (1997). *Situational Crime Prevention: Successful Case Studies*. Albany, NY: Harrow and Heston.  
[Preface and Introduction](#)
- 2) Lasley, James (1998). [Designing Out Gang Homicides and Street Assaults](#). Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

## **Module 7 – Identifying and Researching Problems**

- 1) Eck, John E. & Clarke, Ronald V. (2003). *Classifying Common Police Problems: A Routine Activity Approach*. [Crime Prevention Studies](#); Vol. 16: 7-39.

## **Module 8 – Problem Solving Resources**

- 1) Online readings/resources only.

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

- 1) Clark, Ronald, V. & Eck, John E. (2005). [Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps](#). Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. [Online version](#).
- 2) Boba, Rachel (2003). [Problem Analysis in Policing](#). Washington D.C.: Police Foundation.
- 3) Bynum, Timothy S. (No date). [Using Analysis for Problem Solving: A Guidebook for Law Enforcement](#). Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.



- 4) O'Shea, Timothy, C. & Nichols, Keith (2003). [Crime Analysis in America: Findings and Recommendations](#). Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 4) Mamalian, Cynthia, A. & LaVigne, Nancy, G. (1999). [The Use of Computerized Crime Mapping by Law Enforcement: Survey Results](#). Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Module 10 – Responding to Crime Places**

- 1) Smith, Mary, S. (1996). [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Parking Facilities](#). Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 2) Ratcliffe, Jerry (2006). [Video Surveillance of Public Places](#). Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Module 11 – Responding to Offenders**

- 1) Tilley, Nick. (2013). [Analyzing and Responding to Repeat Offending](#). Problem-Oriented Guides for Police. Problem-Solving Tool Guide No. 13. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 2) Martin, Susan E. & Sherman, Lawrence W. (1986). Selective Apprehension: A Police Strategy for Repeat Offenders. *Criminology*, Vol. 24: 155-173.
- 3) Martin, Susan E. (1986). Policing Career Criminals: An Examination of an Innovative Crime Control Program. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 77: 1159-1182.
- 4) Abrahamse, Allan, Ebener, Patricia A., Greenwood, Peter W., Fitzgerald, Nora & Kosin, Thomas E. (1991). [An Experimental Evaluation of the Phoenix Repeat Offender Program](#). *Justice Quarterly*, Vol. 8 (2): 141-168.

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

- 1) Pease, Ken & Laycock, Gloria (1996). [Revictimization: Reducing the Heat on Hot Victims](#). Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 2) Anderson, David, Chenery, Sylvia & Pease, Ken (1995). [Biting Back: Tackling Repeat Burglary and Car Crime](#). Crime Detection and Prevention Series Paper 58: United Kingdom: Home Office Police Research Group.



- 3) Pease, Ken (2000). [Repeat Victimization: Taking Stock](#). Crime Detection and Prevention Series Paper 90: United Kingdom: Home Office Police Research Group.
- 4) Farrell, Graham, Edmunds, Alan, Hobbs, Louise & Laycock, Gloria (2000). [RV Snapshot: UK Policing and Repeat Victimisation](#). Crime Reduction Research Series Paper 5: United Kingdom: Home Office Police Research Group.

### **Module 13 – Assessing and Evaluating Responses**

- 1) Eck, John, E. (2017). [Assessing Responses to Problems: Did It Work? An Introductory Guide for Police Problem Solvers. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#). Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice; CNA; and Center for Problem-Oriented Policing.
- 2) Bureau of Justice Assistance (1993). [A Police Guide for Surveying Citizens and Their Environments](#). Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

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

- 1) Knutsson, Johannes (2003). Mainstreaming Problem Oriented Policing. Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press. [Online access](#).
- 2) Barthe, Emmanuel (2006). [Crime Prevention Publicity Campaigns](#). Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Response, Response Guide Series No. 5. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 3) Brown, Rick, and Michael S. Scott (2007). [Implementing Responses to Problems](#). Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Response, Problem-Solving Tool Guide Series No. 7. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.