



# Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

## 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 (2002). Problem-Oriented Policing and Crime Prevention.  
Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press.**

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](http://www.popcenter.org)**.

## **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
- [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 Award Winners](#); [Tilley Awards](#)

#### **Online Exercise**

- 1) [Street Prostitution Module](#) – Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/learning/prostitution/intro/default.cfm>.

### **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 \(PAM\)](#) – Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/learning/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	Robbery at ATMs
Burglary of Retail Establishments	School Vandalism
Disorder at Budget Motels	Speeding in Residential Areas
Drug Dealing in Open Air Markets	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	Panhandling
Disorderly Youth in Public Places	Street Prostitution
Drunk Driving	Underage Drinking
Gun Violence among Serious Young Offenders	

## 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  
Crimes against Tourists  
Child Pornography  
Exploitation of Trafficked Women

Identity Theft  
Robbery of Taxi Drivers  
Runaway Juveniles  
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. Accessed at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/186049.pdf>.
- 3) Scott, Michael, S. (2004). The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns. Center for Problem Oriented Policing. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Responses/response-crackdowns.htm>.

### **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? Accessed at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=36>.

### **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. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/Reflections.pdf>.
- 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? Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/about-what-is-POP.htm>.
- 4) POP Center (2006). The Key Elements of POP. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/about-keyelements.htm>.

## **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. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/Tips.pdf>.
- 2) Problem-Oriented Policing Center (2006). The SARA Model. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/about-SARA.htm>.

## **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. Accessed at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/fprs98.pdf>.
- 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 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. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/SCP2%20front%20matter.pdf>.
- 2) Lasley, James (1998). Designing Out Gang Homicides and Street Assaults. Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/173398.pdf>.

## **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. (no date). Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/60Steps.pdf>.
- 2) Boba, Rachel (2003). Problem Analysis in Policing. Washington D.C.: Police Foundation. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/problemanalysinipolicing.pdf>.
- 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. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/Analysis.pdf>.
- 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. Accessed at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=855>.
- 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. Accessed at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/fs000237.pdf>.

## **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. Accessed at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/cptedpkg.pdf>.
- 2) Ratcliffe, Jerry (2006). Video Surveillance of Public Places. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Responses/PDFs/VideoSurveillance.pdf>.

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

- 1) Martin, Susan E. & Sherman, Lawrence W. (1986). Selective Apprehension: A Police Strategy for Repeat Offenders. *Criminology*, Vol. 24: 155-173.

- 2) 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.
- 3) 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. Available at <http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/RP419/>.

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

- 1) Pease, Ken & Laycock, Gloria (1996). Revictimizations: Reducing the Heat on Hot Victims. Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/revictim.pdf>.
- 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. Accessed at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/cdp58bf.pdf>.
- 3) Pease, Ken (2000). Repeat Victimization: Taking Stock. Crime Detection and Prevention Series Paper 90: United Kingdom: Home Office Police Research Group. Accessed at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/cdp90bf.pdf>.
- 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. Accessed at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/rvsnap5.pdf>.

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

- 1) Eck, John, E. (no date). Assessing Responses to Problems: An Introductory Guide for Police Problem Solvers. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/Assessing%20Responses.pdf>.
- 2) Police Executive Research Forum (1993). A Police Guide for Surveying Citizens and Their Environments (NCJ 143771). Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at <http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/Surveying%20Citizens.pdf>.

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

- 1) Knutsson, Johannes (2003). Mainstreaming Problem Oriented Policing. Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press.
  
- 2) Barthe, Emmanuel (2006). Crime Prevention Publicity Campaigns. Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Response, Response Guide Series, #5. Washington D.C.: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed at [http://www.popcenter.org/Responses/PDFs/publicity\\_campaigns.pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/Responses/PDFs/publicity_campaigns.pdf).