
CRJS 3777 - Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 42930,

Credit hours: 12

Instructor

Keith Thorn

Professional Qualifications:

OPOTA Certified Instructor and more than 10 years of experience as Police Academy Commander

Commander Thorn

Email: mkthornjr@ysu.edu

Office: Steubenville Room 1207

Office Phone: 330-383-9235

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Communication Expectations:

I will respond to emails and phone messages within 1-2 business days.

How to Refer to me:

Commander Thorn

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Commander Thorn

Instructor Professional Qualifications: OPOTA Certified Instructor, police officer experience, and over 10 years as Police Academy Commander

Instructor Office Location: Steubenville Campus, Room 1207

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-2190

Course Description

3777. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training. The Ohio Attorney General's Office, Peace Officer Training Academy's requirements for peace/police officers are taught in the academy. The training academy at YSU consists of approximately 740 classroom hours (5 days a week, 8 hours a day for 15 weeks, plus a minimum of three weekends). Upon completion, students receive eligibility from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission for certification if they successfully pass the physical, skills, and written exams. Prereq.: Permission from the Police Academy Commander. 8-18 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	OPOTA Materials	OPOTA	NA

Materials are supplied to the student on the first day of class in-person.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Fall 2026 Police Academy at YSU Steubenville Tentative Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Introduction to basic training and policing, ethics, professionalism, diversity, CJ system, physical fitness, photography, traffic, basic communication, legal basics, lineups, use of force, conditioning, civil liability, arrest, search, seizure, OHLEG, tracing stolen property, subject control techniques, interview, interrogation, and companion animal encounters	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
8/31	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Subject control techniques, arrest search & seizure, interpersonal communication, and mediation communication	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
9/7	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness and conditioning, subject control techniques, arrest search & seizure, domestic violence, and crimes against persons	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
9/14	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, arrest search & seizure, domestic violence, stops & approaches, and bombs & explosives	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
9/21	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, report writing, arrest search & seizure, crimes against property, and driving	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
9/28	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, driving, firearms, crimes against persons, missing persons & human trafficking	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
10/5	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, and firearms	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
10/12	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, driving, juvenile justice system, gambling, patrol aspects, and traffic crash investigation	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
10/19	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, and traffic crash investigation	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
10/26	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, below 100, building searches, active shooter/threat response, critical injury first aid, and child abuse & neglect	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
11/2	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, crime scene, digital evidence, offenses against administration of safety & justice, and other offenses	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
11/9	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, standardized field sobriety testing, and live drinking	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
11/16	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, impact weapons, and civil disorders	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet



11/23	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, LEADS, crisis mitigation, and ICAT	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
11/30	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, testifying in court, surveillance, vehicle theft & identification, motor vehicle offenses, incident debrief training, and drug awareness	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet
12/7	Ohio Criminal Law Handbook and YSU Academy Packet	Physical fitness & conditioning, subject control techniques, crisis intervention, human trafficking, interacting with the media, responding to victims' needs & rights, uniform traffic ticket, hazmat & WMD awareness, and terrorism awareness	Read the assigned readings as provided in-class and in the YSU Academy Packet

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.