

June 12, 2020

Dear current and former students of the Criminology Department:

In the days since the tragic killing of George Floyd, we understand that some of you have reached out to former Criminology professors of yours to share your thoughts and comments, with some requesting recommendations for reading relevant to policing and race relations. As the outgoing chair and the incoming chair of the Criminology Department, we are more than happy to hear from you, and to assist in directing you towards resources you may be interested in.

Students who graduate from the Criminology Department go onto careers in a wide range of fields, with many of you interested in careers in law enforcement. This aspiration to 'serve your community' is a vital role and one that we in the department have supported and been proud of. We hope that the education you obtain at Fresno State helps prepare you to be the outstanding members of the profession that you aspire to be, who serve your profession with honor and integrity, and who seek to work with, and not against, the diverse communities that you serve.

In line with all academic departments, we regularly review our curriculum and course offerings, but at times like this it is an important reminder that we must continuously reexamine what we are offering to make sure that we are providing you with the knowledge and skills to best equip you. In this spirit, we want to hear your suggestions. We want our classrooms to be places for informed and rigorous discussion of research, evidence, and theories that can be applied to the real world. This includes analysis and review of policing policies and practices, and the operation of the criminal justice system more broadly. Faculty members in the department conduct research on criminal justice issues aiming to contribute to greater understanding of what makes for effective, responsible, and equitable policing and criminal justice system functioning. This gathering of data and analysis, often in conjunction with community partners and agencies, seeks to inform and shape police practices and criminal justice policies.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us. You can send comments, concerns, and questions to us here: <https://forms.gle/ujpJr2DDmaahuCVa6>

With all best wishes,

Dr. Emma Hughes
Chair (outgoing)
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