

CRIM 306 - B02 Criminal Justice Ethics, CRN 40450
Summer 2013: Tuesday, 7:20 PM – 10:00 PM, Bull Run Hall, Room #256
George Mason University, Manassas / Prince William Campus

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College Policies:

Campus Resources:

The Writing Center, University Libraries, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Office of Disability Services are available to assist students. Links to the University Catalog and the University Policies website for all other university academic and non-academic policies may also be included in the links below.

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code Policy:

All students are expected to be familiar with the University's Honor Code, which may be found in the University Catalog. Ignorance of the policy is not a valid excuse and all violations will be reported. For the purposes of this class, pay particular attention to section B. *plagiarism*. (*The following was reproduced from the University Catalog*):

B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:

“Presenting, as one's own, the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement or borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the patterns of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.”

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity (See “Honor System and Code” in the George Mason University Catalog). Students who present false information will be treated as instances of serious academic dishonesty.

Add/Drop Period:

Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund June 12, 2013

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) with penalty June 19, 2013

Course Description and Objectives:

The principal objectives of this course will focus on creating an awareness of the ethical issues and dilemmas ever present in the criminal justice system as well as the development of a more informed ability or basis to address them. Author and scholar Professor Joycelyn Pollack wrote...”Criminal justice professionals, whether they work in law enforcement, the courts, or corrections, are placed in a unique position to protect or violate the rights and privileges of citizens. This special position, or public trust, requires that those who have this type of power be especially sensitive to the ethical issues that may arise in their professional lives.” To that end, we are charged with exploring and analyzing such dilemmas in ways to develop our critical thinking skills to keep pace with the ever changing ethical challenges of the world around us.

In a larger sense we will also address some of the broader policy and legal issues confronting the American Criminal Justice system from an ethics perspective to include such areas as crime control versus due process considerations, law enforcement subculture, the dilemmas surrounding plea bargaining, the death penalty, law enforcement corruption and ethical leadership issues. To some extent we will also cover some of the more contemporary techniques of law enforcement to include undercover operations, the use of informants, deceptive interrogation methodologies as well as various “privacy” and due process issues that have taken on additional significance since the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks of 9/11.

The course will be approached from an applied ethics prospective. That is, after learning and discussing the major moral and ethical systems which have evolved in Western Civilizations to include Utilitarianism and Ethical Formalism, we will explore these principles as they relate to the various components of the criminal justice system to include law enforcement, the courts and corrections.

Lastly, time permitting it is my intention to invite various practitioners in the criminal justice system to provide their views on various ethical issues from the real world perspective.

Examinations:

06/25/2013	Mid -term examination	40% of total grade
07/25/2013	Final examination	40% of total grade

Examinations will normally consist of both “objective” questions and material, such as, multiple choice, true/false, there may also be some short answer and essay type questions depending on the material covered and the insightful nature of the topics left open for interpretation. Makeup exams will be allowed only when the student provides written verification of personal illness, death/serious illness, or other emergency in the family. Makeup exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Class Preparation/ Participation:

One of the critical if not indispensable ingredients of a viable ethics course is preparation and discussions. On the former issue it will be very important that the materials highlighted in the Schedule of Topics be read as a pre-requisite to attending class. With regard to the latter point, it is my intention to involve students in class discussion and debate as a matter of course. This will necessitate extensive student preparation. Accordingly, 20% of your grade will be attributed to “class participation”. Additionally, there will be a facilitated class exercise which will also count towards the 20 % participation grade.

The class exercise on **July 18, 2013** will introduce practical ethical scenarios encountered within the various criminal justice fields and challenge the students to use critical thinking skills to overcome the dilemmas. Students will work in a group environment to examine these scenarios and offer viewpoints and resolution to the ethical challenges. This session is intended for the students to test their knowledge of ethical theories from the text, in addition to addressing the sensitive issues confronting the criminal justice system today. Group assignments may be made during the course of the semester to supplement commentary dialogue that will occur in class to facilitate a better understanding of the subject matter.

Throughout the course, we will engage in various “debates” so as to fully explore the merits of all sides of a policy or issue confronting the criminal justice system. Issues that come to mind include the death penalty, racial profiling, and use of force, as well as more contemporary matters such as the Patriot Act, immigration reform, gun control and the ethical considerations and consequences that law enforcement officials must address in discharging their duties and responsibilities. *As these issues often bring strong perspectives and emotions, it is a reminder to all students to be respectful to others opinions and open to other perspectives during these discussions.*

Overall Grading:

2 examinations @ 40% each = 80%
Class Participation (class exercises) = 20%

The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that we will be using for ADJ- 306:

A	100 – 93 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	92.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 83 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	82.9 – 80 %		

Text:

Primary:

Jay S. Albanese, Professional Ethics in Criminal Justice, “Being Ethical when no one is looking”, 3rd edition, Prentice Hall / Pearson (2012)

Supplemental: (*non criminal justice majors*)

Michael W. Quinn, “The Police Code of Silence:” Walking With the Devil, (2005)

Judith A. Boss, “Ethics for Life”, a text with readings, 5th edition, McGraw Hill, (2011)

Class Schedule:

As set forth below the subject matter that will be covered during the course of the semester has been grouped by chapters. In preparing for class it is recommended that the material be read and organized in that manner. It should also be noted that it is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of assignments, changes to the schedule, etc., all of which will be announced with adequate notice during class.

- June 4, Introduction to Course Syllabus;
Chapter One (1): Recognizing Ethical Decisions, Ethics and Critical Thinking**
- June 6, Chapter Two (2): Virtue Ethics, Seeking the Good**
- June 11, Chapter Three (3): Formalism, Obligation to Duty**
- June 13, Class Exercise / Research in Ethical Dilemmas**
- June 18, Chapter Four (4): Utilitarianism: Measuring Consequences**
- June 20, Chapter Five (5): Crime and the Law: Which behaviors ought to be crimes?**
- June 25, MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Chapter 1 through Chapter 5)**
- June 27, Chapter Six (6): Police: How should the law be enforced?**
- July 2, Chapter Seven (7): Courts: How should the law be adjudicated?**
- July 4, NO CLASS...Independence Day Holiday**
- July 9, Chapter Eight (8): Punishment and Corrections: What to do with offenders?**
- July 11, Chapter Nine (9): Liability: What should be the consequences of ethical behavior?**
- July 16, Chapter Ten (10): Ethics and Legal Professionals, Guest Lecturer; Judge Will Jarvis, Prince William County General District Court**
- July 18, Guest Lecturer, Scenario Based class exercise; Ms. Jessica Herbert, Analyst for: Booz, Allen, Hamilton, Identifying Ethical Dilemmas**
- July 23, Reading day, exam review**
- July 25, FINAL EXAMINATION (Chapter 6 through 10)
7:20 PM to 10:00 PM as indicated in GMU Exam schedule; Summer 2013**