

CRIM 306, Section-001: Criminal Justice Ethics, CRN 71721
Fall 2017: Wednesday, 1:30 PM to 4:10 pm, Colgan Hall #302
George Mason University, Prince William Science & Technology Campus

Instructor: Stephen F. Bamford, Assistant Term Professor
Assistant Chief of Police (Retired)

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Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:00 pm by appointment at PWC
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Contact Numbers: (703) 993-5693 office,

University 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.

General University Information / Weather: www.gmu.edu

Office of Disability Services: ods.gmu.edu

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services: caps.gmu.edu

English Language Institute: eli.gmu.edu

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.

The Honor Code is as follows:

"To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work."

Extent of the Honor Code:

The Honor Code at George Mason University shall be specifically concerned with cheating or attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in an academic setting.

Cheating includes using unauthorized material and/or unauthorized assistance in academic work.

Plagiarism includes self-plagiarism, inadequate citation, false citation, and failure to adhere to citation forms set by the professor.

Stealing includes but is not limited to the following:

- Removing an exam from the classroom
- Taking pictures of or copying the exam and/or academic work
- Taking someone's work without their knowledge

Lying includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Making up sources, data, information, etc.
- Giving a false excuse for missing a test or a class
- Telling a professor or a teaching assistant false information
- Falsifying official correspondence

Students are expected to abide by the requirements of the University regarding academic integrity, to include lying, cheating or stealing. (See "Honor System and Code" in the George Mason University Catalog) Students who present false information will be treated in accordance with the University's Policies.

Add/Drop Period:

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund	September 5, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 33% penalty	September 19, 2017
Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) 67% penalty	September 29, 2017

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 the use of discretion, the abuse of authority, the use of force, excessive use of force, unfair and bias based policing practices, hiring and firing of police personnel, internal affairs / personnel investigations, undercover operations, the use of informants, deceptive interrogation methodologies as well as various "privacy" and due process issues.

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, Virtue Ethics, 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:

10/11/2017	Mid -term examination	40% of total grade
12/13/2017	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. **Students will need to bring “Scantron” Testing Cards to each exam.**

Class Participation / Group Exercise:

One of the critical if not indispensable ingredients of a viable ethics course is preparation and discussions. On the former, it is 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 student preparation. Accordingly, **20%** of your grade will consist of “class preparation”.

Students will work in a group environment to examine scenarios and offer viewpoints, challenges and potential resolution to the ethical dilemmas. This exercise is intended for students to test their knowledge and understanding of ethical theories from the text, readings and lectures while addressing the sensitive issues confronting the criminal justice system today. To that end, there will be a group project and group presentations at the end of the semester (See class schedule). **Group assignments and topics will be made during class on September 13, it is imperative that you come to class that day to be assigned to a project group.** The assignments and presentations will consist of a review of criminal justice topic with one or more ethical dilemmas, identifying the dilemmas, possible solutions and presenting the information to the class for discussion. A more detailed description of the process and topics will be provided to each student at the time the groups and topics are assigned. The purpose of the exercises is to supplement commentary dialogue that occurs 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, but are not limited to; the death penalty, racial profiling, and use of force, arrest, prosecution and sentencing of offenders as well as more contemporary matters such as the Patriot Act, immigration reform, gun control, National Security v. individual privacy and the ethical considerations and consequences associated with each. ***Some of the issues discussed often evoke strong emotions, this is a reminder to all students to be respectful to others, their opinions and be open to other perspectives during these discussions.***

Overall Grading:

Two examinations @ 40% each = 80%
Participation and group exercise = 20%

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

A	100 – 94 %	C+	79.9 – 77 %
A-	93.9 – 90 %	C	76.9 – 70 %
B+	89.9 – 87 %	D	69.9 – 60 %
B	86.9 – 84 %	F	59.9 and below
B-	83.9 – 80 %		

Text:

Primary: *(required)*

Jay S. Albanese, Professional Ethics in Criminal Justice, “Being Ethical when no one is looking”, 4th edition, Prentice Hall / Pearson (2016)

ISBN: 9780133843286

Supplemental: *(suggested for 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)

Fall 2017 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.

Aug. 30,	Introduction to Course Syllabus; Chapter One (1): Recognizing Ethical Decisions, Ethics and Critical Thinking
Sept. 6,	Chapter Two (2): Virtue Ethics, Seeking the Good
Sept. 13,	Chapter Three (3): Formalism, Obligation to Duty...Groups Assignments
Sept. 20,	Chapter Four (4): Utilitarianism: Measuring Consequences
Sept. 27,	Chapter Five (5): Crime and the Law: Which behaviors ought to be crimes?
Oct. 4,	Chapter Six (6): Police: How should the law be enforced? Mid-term Review
Oct. 11,	MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Chapters 1 through 5)
Oct. 18,	Chapter Six (6): continued...
Oct. 25,	Chapter Seven (7): Courts: How should the law be adjudicated? Guest Lecturer; Judge Will Jarvis, Prince William County General District Court
Nov. 1,	Chapter Eight (8): Punishment and Corrections: What to do with offenders?
Nov. 8,	Chapter Nine (9): Liability: What should be the consequences of ethical behavior? & Chapter Ten (10): Ethics and Legal Professionals
Nov 15,	Group Project Work Session**
Nov. 22,	NO CLASS...Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 29,	Presentation Day; (Groups 1 through 3)
Dec. 6,	Presentation Day; (Groups 4 through 6) & Final Exam Review
Dec. 13,	FINAL EXAMINATION (Chapters 6 through 10) 1:30 PM to 4:15 PM as indicated in GMU Exam schedule; fall 2017