

**CRIM 306 – DL3 Criminal Justice Ethics**  
*College of Humanities and Social Sciences*  
*Criminology, Law, and Society*  
*George Mason University*

**Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** David Huchler  
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**Office Hours:** Online - By Appointment

**Class Time:** Monday, 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

**Location:** Online – this will be a hybrid of synchronous and asynchronous learning

**Course Description (GMU Course Catalog):**

This course analyzes ethical principles relevant for those working in the criminal justice system.

**I. Learning Goal (Text Book Overview)**

**By the end of the course, students will develop the ethical decision-making skills that are essential in the field of criminal justice.**

The text *Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice*, 10th Edition is packed with current, real-world examples that cover ethics across all three arms of the criminal justice system: the police, the courts, and corrections. It combines coverage of the philosophical principles and theories that are the foundation of ethical decision making with the latest challenges and issues in criminal justice; militarization of the police, mass imprisonment, wrongful convictions, the misuse of power by public servants, and more.

**II. Course Requirements and Grading**

- 20% - Chapter Assignments - *Assignments will be completed through Blackboard using the MindTap subscription-based learning service. This entails weekly take-home quizzes, video reviews and scenario based questions.*
  - *Weighted: Quizzes 75%; Video/Scenario 25%.*
- 20% - A five (5) page, double-spaced, paper on a topic approved/assigned by the instructor. The paper should use class readings and other appropriate source material to form a defensible position on the selected topic. In addition to the assigned text, students are required to cite at least **four** different sources. Papers will be written using the APA formatting and style guide (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/helpful-links>).
- 15% - Ethical Analysis Essay (3)
- 15% - Video Assignments (3)
- **30% - Three Exams**

***\*Failure to fully complete an assignment will result in a zero.***

### III. Schedule of topics and assignments

Week 1	1/25	First Day of Class	Introduction/Overview	Online 5 pm
<b>MODULE 1</b>				
Week 2	2/1	Text – Chapter 1 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Mortality, Ethics and Human Behavior	
Week 3	2/8	Text – Chapter 2 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Determining Moral Behavior	Online 5 pm
Week 4	2/15	Text – Chapter 3 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Justice and Law	
Week 5	2/22	Text – Chapter 4 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Becoming an Ethical Professional	Online 5 pm
Week 6	3/1	<b>Exam #1</b> <i>Ethical Dilemma Analysis #1</i>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4</b>	
<b>MODULE 2</b>				
Week 7	3/8	Text – Chapter 5 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	The Police Role in Society	Online 5 pm
Week 8	3/15	Text – Chapter 6 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Police Discretion and Dilemmas	
Week 9	3/22	Text – Chapter 7 <i>MindTap Assignments</i> <i>Video – The Seven Five</i>	Police Corruption and Responses	Online 5 pm
Week 10	3/29	<b>Exam #2</b> <i>Ethical Dilemma Analysis #2</i>	<b>Chapters 5, 6, 7</b>	
<b>MODULE 3</b>				
Week 11	4/5	Text – Chapter 8 <i>MindTap Assignments</i>	Law and Legal Professionals	
Week 12	4/12	Text – Chapter 9 <i>MindTap Assignments</i> <i>Video – Grave Injustice</i>	Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession	Online 5 pm
Week 13	4/19	Text – Chapter 10 <i>MindTap Assignments</i> <i>Research Paper DUE</i>	Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses	
Week 14	4/26	Text – Chapter 12 <i>MindTap Assignments</i> <i>Video – Stanford Prison Experiment</i>	Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections	Online 5 pm
Week 15	5/3	Reading Day		
Week 16	5/10	<b>Exam #3</b> <i>Ethical Dilemma Analysis #3</i>	<b>Chapters 8,9,10,12</b>	

**\*\*The online meetings are scheduled for 5 - 7 pm on the dates listed. These sessions are not mandatory and can be viewed on a later date\*\***

#### IV. Grading Scale

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 %		

#### V. Required Reading

Joycelyn M. Pollock: Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice, 10<sup>th</sup> edition

Students will use the Cengage MindTap subscription based service described below, which will be integrated with GMU Blackboard. Access can be purchased through the George Mason University Book Store or Online. Students will then log into their Blackboard account in order to activate the subscription. The log in for Cengage MindTap can be found in the MindTap folder in the Content area of Blackboard. Once the subscription is activated students will only have to log into Blackboard to access the digital platform.

**MindTap offers a free 2-week trial prior to purchase beginning August 24, 2020. This will allow you to access and become familiar with the subscription prior to purchase.**

*The materials required for this class and any others using Cengage products are included in ONE Cengage Unlimited subscription. For \$119.99 per semester, you get access to ALL your Cengage online textbooks, and access codes, in one place. \$7.99 hardcopy textbook rentals are also available for select titles. Download the free [Cengage Mobile App](#) to get your Cengage Unlimited online textbooks and study tools on your phone. Ask for Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore or visit [cengage.com/unlimited](http://cengage.com/unlimited).*

#### VI. Optional Reading

Optional readings will be placed in the Content area of Blackboard to support the textbook readings and discussions.

#### VII. Honor Code

It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads 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 forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.”*

More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <http://oai.gmu.edu>

## VIII. 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 can be found in the links below:

- Mason Alert-Weather: <https://ready.gmu.edu/mason-alert-update-regarding-weather/>
- Office of Disability Services: <https://ds.gmu.edu/>
- Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>
- Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://caps.gmu.edu/University>
- Catalog: <https://catalog.gmu.edu>
- University Policies: <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/all-policies/>
- University Library: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

### **Student Support Resources on Campus:**

<https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/knowning-mason-students/student-support-resources-on-campus/>

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

<https://ds.gmu.edu/>

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <https://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474

### **Compliance, Diversity and Ethics:**

<https://diversity.gmu.edu/>

The Office of Compliance, Diversity and Ethics affirms and supports Mason's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity, as well as a culture of integrity that values shared responsibility, as critical elements of an inclusive and diverse academic community.

### **Add/Drop Period:**

February 1    - *last day to add*  
February 12   - last day to drop 100% refund  
February 16   - last day to drop with 50% refund

**Class Cancellations:**

<https://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/>

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or any other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at: <https://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/> . If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I will make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to check your email regularly so you can receive important information in a timely manner.

**Attendance:**

Attendance will not be taken due to the course moving to an online format. Meetings held through Ultra Collaborate will be recorded for viewing later.

**Technology:**

Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate). In addition to the requirements above, students are required to have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.

All of our synchronous meetings in this class will be recorded to provide necessary information for students in this class. Recordings will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking this course during this semester.