

George Mason University
Fairfax Campus, Virginia
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS - CRIM 306-004
Fall Semester 2021 – Monday 10:30am – 1:10pm

Instructor: Steven Remick

Office: By Appointment

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Office Hours: By Appointment (available ½ hour before or after class)

CRIM 306-004 Criminal Justice Ethics meets on **Monday's from 10:30pm-1:10pm at Innovation Hall Room 223.**

I will be using your Mason email addresses to send out important class information/assignments, and the Blackboard will be my primary repository for information you will need for class.

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

Enrollment statement: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website at registrar.gmu.edu.)

After the last day to drop a class has passed, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. **See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.**

Add/Drop Period:

Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course) Full Refund 9/7/2021

Last Day to Drop (Full Semester Course) 50% Refund 9/14/2021

Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability 9/15 – 9/27/2021

Selective Withdrawal Period - Undergraduate Only (100% Tuition Liability) 9/28 – 10/27/2021.

Important Dates:

First Day of Classes August 23, 2021

University Closed/No Class- Labor Day Holiday Monday Sept. 6, 2021

Fall Break Monday Classes Do Not Meet Oct. 11, 2021, Monday classes meet Tuesday Oct. 12, 2021.

Course Description

Explore the ethical principles relevant for those working in criminal justice.

Course Objectives:

A single disreputable act committed by a single unprofessional officer can impact the entire profession. At the end of the day, all police officers look and act the same in the eyes of the average citizen. An important thing for officers to remember is that what they do in uniform affects not only themselves as individuals, but their entire agency and the entire profession.

The principal objective of this course will be for you to determine your own Ethos or Ethical Standard, which we will define by completing some assignments and projects. Your Final will be a Project where you define your Ethos and explain your Ethical Standard and most importantly the “why.” We will also focus on critical thinking and how we can make better decisions related to ethics by preparing ourselves intellectually and emotionally.

Other 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.

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. This will also include the use of discretion, the abuse of authority, the use of force, excessive force, unfair and bias based policing practices, hiring, firing and discipline 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. We will also discuss and explore the relationships between components of the criminal justice system and society in general to include institutions of social control.

The course will be approached from an applied ethics perspective. 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 the police, courts, and corrections.

Course Goals and Policies

Please be aware of Mason's policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do

a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete scheduled coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do extra work to raise your grade. Makeup exams will be allowed only when the student provides written verification of personal illness, death/serious illness, or other emergency in the family and severe or inclement weather as defined by University policy. Makeup exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor. Please note that according to Mason policy, "Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities." (See page 33 of the University Catalog.)

Privacy Policy:

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Grading Scale:

Below is the numeric equivalent of the letter grades which will be used in this class.

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 – 83 %	F 59.9 and below
B- 82.9 – 80 %	

Course Grade Components:

Class Participation = 12%
Journal = 15%
Homework/Quizzes & other Assignments = 23%
Mid-Term Project = 20%
Final Project = 30%
Total Grade = 100%

Level of Effort

I will engage you in class discussion by asking questions but, what I need from you is to participate in class discussions, complete your homework, complete your readings, and come to class prepared to facilitate productive discussions. Anything presented in class including but not limited to lecture, readings, handouts, class discussions, guest speakers, video presentations etc. can be expected to be seen on homework, quizzes, projects, and other assignments.

To encourage you to make the most of this class, 20% of your course grade will be based on my evaluation of your level of participation in the classroom, obviously if you are not in class then you will be unable to participate in that class's discussion.

During this class you will be given quizzes, homework assignments, readings and of course chapter assignments from the text. Some of these will be posted on the Blackboard others I will assign in class and then post on the Blackboard. **All quizzes/assignments that are turned in late/completed late or posted after the deadline will be given a 10% grade penalty. Anything turned in more than a week late will be given a 20% grade penalty unless excused by me in advance (Exceptions would be medical emergency etc.) Assignments turned in more than 2 weeks late may receive a zero/"F" grade unless I authorize an extension. There will be no "make-up" or extra credit work.**

In law enforcement there are often deadlines for reports, evidence filings, discovery, and other important case file documentation. Adhering to timelines/deadlines and being able to manage your time here in class is only a small reminder of what is to come if you choose a career in law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system.

I will make sure we discuss all the written assignments, homework, and projects in class so that you can ask any questions before the assignment is due. The readings and assigned textbook chapters are expected to be done each week in preparation for class discussions. Falling behind in reading assignments will only lead to a challenging time participating in class, so read and be prepared.

Blackboard

We will be using Mason's online Blackboard program for all assignments and readings feedback/discussion as well as class instructions and grades, and any other necessary course materials, such as syllabus and homework.

Here is how to access Blackboard:

Go to: courses.gmu.edu

Log on using your email username and password.

If you have never used Blackboard before and need some assistance, there is a student resource guide available at <http://tap.gmu.edu/bbstudentguide.pdf>. You can get personal assistance by calling IT Services or emailing courses@gmu.edu.

I use MS Office 2019, so if you have not upgraded from an earlier version yet go to Microsoft's website and download the free compatibility pack so you can access the PPTs and other files.

Summary of Scheduled Lectures/Class discussion:

As set forth below, the subject matter that will be covered during 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.

The following schedule shows my planned discussions listed by date along with Holiday dates. Some minor changes may be made to the schedule based on class progress and or guest speaker schedules.

All text chapters assigned include completing the critical thinking exercises at the end of each chapter. Be prepared to discuss these exercises in class.

1. **August 23, 2021: NO CLASS** See Student ETHOS Assignment Listed. READ Chapter 1- Recognizing ethical decisions, Ethics and critical thinking.
2. **August 30, 2021:** Chapter 2- Virtue Ethics, Seeking the good. Discuss class objectives, review syllabus. **Student ETHOS Assignment Due.**
Homework= Ethos Interview Assignment to be explained in class.

September 6, 2021, University Closed-Labor Day

3. **September 13, 2021:** Chapter 3- Formalism, Carrying out obligation and duty. Ethos Assignment Class Discussion.
4. **September 20, 2021:** Chapter 4- Utilitarianism, Measuring consequences.
5. **September 27, 2021:** Chapter 5- Crime and Law, which behaviors ought to be crimes? Preparation for Mid-Term Project.
6. **October 4, 2021:** Chapter 6- Police, how should the law be enforced?

October 11, 2021, Class Does Not Meet/ Class meets Tuesday Oct. 12.

7. **October 12, 2021: Mid-Term Project Due.**
8. **October 18, 2021: Guest Speaker- Angela Vernail Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Chapter 7- Courts, how should a case be adjudicated?**
9. **October 25, 2021: Guest Speaker Judge James Plowman. Chapter 8- Punishment and Corrections, what should be done with offenders? QUIZ On Angela Vernail Guest Speaker lecture.**
10. **November 1, 2021: Internal Affairs; The Police Watchdog. QUIZ on Judge Plowman Lecture.**
11. **November 8, 2021: Chapter 9- Liability, what should be the consequence of unethical conduct?**
12. **November 15, 2021: Chapter 10- The Future, Will we be more or less ethical?**
13. **November 22, 2021: Final Project Due.**

November 24-28, 2021: University Closed-Thanksgiving Break

14. **Last Class November 29, 2021: Review**

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.

Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence:

George Mason University is committed to providing a safe learning, living and working environment free from discrimination. The University's environment is meant to be experienced as vibrant and dynamic, and one that includes ample opportunities for exploration of self, identity and independence. Sexual misconduct and incidents of interpersonal violence deeply interrupt that experience, and George Mason University is committed to a campus that is free of these types of incidents in order to promote community well-being and student success.

George Mason University encourages individuals who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. Confidential resources are available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu), Student Health Services (shs.gmu.edu), the University Ombudsperson (ombudsman.gmu.edu), and Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services (waves.gmu.edu).

All other members of the University community (except those noted above) are not considered confidential resources and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the University Title IX Coordinator.

For a full list of resources, support opportunities, and reporting options, contact the University Title IX Coordinator at; integrity.gmu.edu and/or at 703-993-8730. Our goal is to create awareness of the range of options available to you and provide access to resources.

Bad Weather and Other Emergencies

Check Mason's homepage (www.gmu.edu) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.

University Services and Resources

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>). Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute (eli.gmu.edu).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services [caps.gmu.edu/learning services](http://caps.gmu.edu/learning-services). They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see registrar.gmu.edu. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. **If you enroll late** it is your responsibility to complete any assignments you may have missed in class or on Black Board. Make an effort to establish a relationship with fellow students in class so you can get caught up on assignments you may miss **when and if you miss class**. Failure to meet deadlines on assignments will cause grades on those assignments to suffer.

University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and honorcode.gmu.edu for additional information. Mason's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous

advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge." Examples of plagiarism include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism.

Lying includes "the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work." Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn't really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Stealing includes "taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus. This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials. "