

George Mason University
Fairfax Campus, Virginia
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS CRIM-306
Fall Semester 2022

Instructor: Steven Remick
Email: Primary- sremick@gmu.edu
Day Phone: (Tue-Fri 6:00am-3:30pm) 703-554-6974
Office Hours: By Appointment

Name and pronoun use: If you wish, please share your name and pronouns with me and how best to address you in class and via email. I use he/him and you may address me as Mr. Remick or Professor Remick, whichever you wish.

Our class, Criminal Justice Ethics CRIM-306-009 meets:
Monday's from 10:30pm-1:10pm at Krug Hall Room 7.

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

Required Text

Ethics in the Criminal Justice System, 2nd Edition (Beltshaw; Johnstone; DeBoer)
ISBN: 9781524987503

Please have your textbook for the first day of class as our class only meets once a week. You will need it for your first class on Aug. 22nd.

Enrolment 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 Important Dates and Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.**

Important Dates

Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Mon. Aug 29
Labor Day: University Closed	Mon. Sept 5
Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund	Tues. Sept 6
Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund	Tue. Sept 13
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability	Wed. Sept 14 - Tue. Sept 27
Fall Break (Classes Do Not Meet)	Mon. Oct 10
Monday Classes/Labs Meet (Tuesday Classes Do Not Meet This Week)	Tue. Oct 11
Mid-term Evaluation Period: 100-200 level classes - Grades Available via Patriot Web	Mon. Sept 19 - Fri. Oct 14
Selective withdrawal period Undergraduate Students Only (100% Tuition Liability)	Wed. Sept 28 - Mon. Oct 24
Incomplete Work from Spring/Summer 2021 Due to Instructor	Friday, October 21
Incomplete Grade Changes from Spring/Summer 2021 Due to Registrar	Friday, October 28
Thanksgiving Recess: No Classes (University Closed Nov. 23-27)	Wed. Nov 23 - Sun. Nov 27
Last Day of Class	Sat. Dec 3

GMU Course Description

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

Course Objectives

The principal objective of this course will be for you to determine your own Ethos and Ethical Standards, and the origins of your morals, values, and belief system. We will do this by completing various in-class exercises, interviews, homework assignments and projects. For your Mid-Term Project you will choose two professionals to interview and provide a comparison between their ethical standards and decision making as well as yours.

Your Final Project/Presentation will be a Project where you define and explain your own ethos/ethical standards, along with any observable change that you have experienced; and most importantly the “why.” I may change the requirements on the Final depending on class progression and time restraints. I will notify the class of any changes.

Throughout class we will work on critical thinking processes and how we can make better ethical decisions by using critical thinking processes and preparing ourselves ethically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Other objectives of this course will focus on creating discussion and 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. Most of these discussions will be conducted in class as exercises, quizzes, and the review of various homework assignments.

As a class we will address some of the broader policy and legal issues confronting the American Criminal Justice system from an ethics perspective to include such areas as cognitive and implicit bias, the law enforcement subculture, plea bargaining, 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, hiring, firing and discipline of police personnel, internal affairs investigations, undercover operations, the use of informants. 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 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."

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 Exercises/Participation and quizzes = 20%

Journal = 15%

Homework & other Assignments = 15%

Mid-Term Presentation = 20%

Final Paper= 30%

Total Grade = 100%

Level of effort and graded work

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

One of the key factors that will assist your growth ethically will occur “in class.” We will discuss and review completed assignments and projects to discover and compare our ethical framework and the ethos of others. Some of these standards and comparisons will come from people who you and your classmates have interviewed or read about. We will conduct class exercises that require critical thinking, logic, and productive discussion about ethics and the criminal justice system. During these in-class discussions will be where most of the lessons are exchanged and even debated by all of us. For that reason, I have placed the value of “in class” work as class participation and I will grade that work in class each week.

As noted above in the Course Grading Components, 20% of your course grade will be for Class Participation including in class exercises, participation including quizzes. Obviously if you are not in class then you will be unable to participate in that class graded work. Since in class work relies on student discussion and exchanging ideas there will be no make-up work for in class graded quizzes and class exercises as it is not feasible to duplicate these lessons. Our class only meets once a week so being in class is imperative for your growth and learning.

During this class you will be given textbook chapters to read; homework assignments; readings; and videos to watch. Some of these will be posted on the Blackboard others I will assign in class and then post on the Blackboard.

All graded work/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. Assignments turned in more than 2 weeks late may receive a zero / F for a grade. There will be no “make-up” or extra credit work.

Quizzes are part of your Class Participation grade. Therefore, if you miss a class when a quiz is given you will get a zero as a grade. You can expect a quiz after Guest Speaker lectures, there are also some pop quizzes during the semester.

We will be using Blackboard to submit most graded work such as papers, presentations, projects etc. So, I require all that work to be submitted via a WORD Document or a PDF (Apple Friendly) so if you have any issues with those requirements let me know right away so we can produce a solution.

I will make sure we discuss the instructions and any rubrics for all the assignments, homework, and projects in class so that you can ask any questions before the assignment is due. The assigned readings, Journal assignments and assigned textbook chapters are expected be done each week in preparation for class discussions. Falling behind in these assignments will only lead to a challenging time participating in class, so complete the work, read, and prepare for classroom discussion/work.

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.

In Blackboard I have created Class Folders under the "Course Content" tab (left menu). Each Class Folder will be labeled by class number and date. The Class Folder will list various expectations, upcoming class exercises, quizzes, guest speakers etc. It will also include a list of all required readings, textbook chapters, and homework assignments. Inside some of the Class Folders will be sub-folders containing links to articles, videos, and other coursework. It is your responsibility to read and review each Class Folder to prepare for class.

Summary of Scheduled Lectures/Class discussion:

As set forth on the following page, the subject matter that will be covered during the semester has been grouped into chapters. 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 on Blackboard and announced with adequate notice during class.

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

Class Schedule

1. August 22, 2022: Homework: Read Ch. 1 in textbook, Student Ethos Assignment, Complete Discussion Board "Introduction"; Journal Entry due Sept 5th.
2. August 29, 2022: Chapter 1: Introduction to Ethical Theory, Class review/discussion on Student Ethos Assignment. Mid-Term Project instructions/preparation.

September 5, 2022: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY- NO CLASSES

3. September 12, 2022: Ch. 2- Importance of ethics in criminal justice. Ch. 3- Is acting on principle the answer? Journal entry due; Homework: Ethos Interview Assignment to be explained in class.
4. September 19, 2022: Ch. 4 Considering the ethical consequences
5. September 26, 2022: Ch. 5 A virtuous man; Journal Entry Due
6. October 3, 2022: Ch. 6 Ethics and the police
7. **October 11, 2022: Fall Break Monday classes meet Tuesday Oct. 11th:** Ch7 Police Deviance; Journal Entry Due.
8. October 17, 2022: Ch 8 Ethics within the criminal justice system; Mid-Term Presentations Begin.
9. October 24, 2022: Ch. 9 Punishment, moral dilemmas, human rights & capital punishment. Journal Entry Due; Guest Speaker Attorney Ryan Ruzic; Quiz following lecture.
10. October 31, 2022: Ch. 10 Ethical issues in probation & parole
11. November 7, 2022: Ch. 11 Ethical issues & juvenile justice; Journal Entry Due.
12. November 14, 2022: Ch. 12 Racial discrimination & the criminal justice system.
13. November 21, 2022: Review; Last Journal Due; Final Paper due 11/27/2022.
14. November 28, 2022: Ethics Jeopardy Game Day

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>

Accommodation for students with disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodation, please see me, and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) 703-993-2474. All academic accommodation 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 many 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 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 severe 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 accommodation 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 would like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services 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 have heard from former students that these services can be 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. Try 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 information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include 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 did not 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 to author 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 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."