Crim 306-03: Ethics in Criminal Justice

Spring 2023

Instructor: Kirsten Hauser, Adjunct Professor

Email: khauser4@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Conferences available by Appointment

Course Descriptions and Objectives

Ethics is as important and real-life as any subject you will study. The principal objectives of this course will focus on creating awareness of the ethical issues and dilemmas ever present in the criminal justice system. The course is geared toward expanding your ability to think critically, recognize dangerous situations and thought processes, and respond to them with maximum effectiveness.

Class Meetings

This class will meet on **Thursdays from Noon to 1:15 pm in Krug Hall Room 7.** The remainder of your time will be spent on MindTap Exercises, a Small Group Project, Journals and Discussion Forums. Please check Blackboard regularly for Announcements and Assignments.

Text

Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice by Joycelyn Pollock, Eleventh Edition (Cengage Learning) Plus MINDTAP (digital content)

Communication Policy:

Ask the Instructor: Available on Discussion Forum. For general course questions please check here first before emailing the instructor.

E-mail: Students who e-mail me Monday - Thursday can ordinarily expect a response within 24 hours. Students who e-mail after 4 PM on Friday or over the weekend can ordinarily expect a response by noon on the following Monday.

Turnaround Time for Grading: All assignments and assessments that are completed and received by the due date will be graded and associated grades will be posted in the Grade Center of this Blackboard electronic classroom within 7 days of the due date. (NOTE: I generally do not begin to grade an assignment until on or after the due date since it is my preference to grade all students' submissions at one time.)

NOTE: You are expected to retain an electronic copy of all work submitted. If transmission of the work fails, you are expected to "resend" the document under the instructor's directions. Assignments will be submitted in Blackboard either through Discussion Board forum postings, via the Assignment feature, or via the SafeAssign feature. You are expected to verify your own Blackboard responses by returning to the appropriate place in Blackboard after the work has been posted.

Examinations

There will be 3 Exams given throughout the semester.

Exams will be essay, multiple choice and true/false. Makeups will be allowed only when the student provides third party written verification of participation in a university sponsored activity, personal illness, death/serious illness, or other emergency in the family. Third party written verification may include a note from an activity sponsor, an obituary or funeral program, or a doctor's note. Makeups may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam and will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Class Assignments and Participation

Weekly assignments and deadlines will be posted on Blackboard, including a link to MINDTAP content. Assigned readings should be completed prior to attending class. Participation in class discussions and exercises is important to mastering the ethical concepts and principles. A bonus of 2% added to your Final Overall Class Average may be given to students who consistently make meaningful contributions to Class Discussions which go beyond the norm.

Late Work Policy

All Assignments should be completed prior to the beginning of the class period on the due date, unless otherwise noted. Late work will not be accepted unless a student provides third party written verification of an excused absence or emergency. Third party written verification may include a note from an activity sponsor, an obituary or funeral program, or a doctor's note. Except in the very rare cases of last minute emergencies, students should notify instructor in advance of deadlines and make arrangements to complete the assigned work. Technology failures, work-related excuses, work in other classes and oversleeping are not considered a personal emergency.

Overall Grading

20%: Law Enforcement Unit Exam

20%: Legal Ethics Unit Exam

10%: Ethics Unit Exam

30%: Assignments (Mindtap, Discussion Forum and Journals)

20%: Small Group Presentation

The following is the numerical conversion to the corresponding letter grade scale that will be used for CRIM- 306.

Range (%)	**Grade**
99-100	A+
94- less than 99	A
90- less than 94	A-
87- less than 90	B+

84- less than 87	B
80- less than 84	B-
77- less than 80	C+
74- less than 77	C
70- less than 74	C-
60- less than 70	D
Less than 60	F

Campus Emergencies, Closures, and Class Cancellations

George Mason University is dedicated to preparing staff and students in the event of an emergency. All students in this class are encouraged to register for Mason Alert, a system that allows university officials to contact the community during an emergency by sending a text message. If you are not currently registered for Mason Alert please text MASON to 411911 or visit the website: https://alert.gmu.edu

If campus is closed for any reason (power outage, snow, etc.), this class will be held remotely on Zoom.

College Policies and Resources

There are numerous campus resources that are available to help students succeed in their classes, academic careers, and in their professions after they leave GMU, and to manage the many other challenges that we all face at some point. For more details, review the full list of resources online at http://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus/ A few of these include:

- Communication Center
- University Writing Center
- Learning Services
- Academic Advising and Transfer Center
- Student Health Services
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- University Career Services
- Military Services
- Student Support and Advocacy Center
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural Education

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

Name and Pronoun Use

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 she, her, hers for myself and you may address me as Professor Hauser in email and verbally.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services (ODS). You can contact ODS at http://ods.gmu.edu/, 703.993.2474, or stop by SUB I Room 4205. If you qualify for an accommodation, the

ODS staff will give you a form detailing appropriate accommodations for your instructor. In addition to providing your professors with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss accommodation with them at the beginning of the semester and as needed during the term. Because of the range of learning differences, faculty members need to learn from you the most effective ways to assist you. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please tell your instructor.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code Policy

- *The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.*
- *As in many classes, a number of projects in this class are designed to be completed within your study group. With collaborative work, names of all the participants should appear on the work. Collaborative projects may be divided up so that individual group members complete portions of the whole, provided that group members take sufficient steps to ensure that the pieces conceptually fit together in the end product. Reduced credit or no credit may be given to group members who do not substantially participate in the creation of the project or presentation.*
- *Other projects are designed to be undertaken independently. In the latter case, you may discuss your ideas with others and conference with peers on drafts of the work; however, it is not appropriate to give your paper to someone else to revise. You are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. If only your name appears on an assignment, your professor has the right to expect that you have done the work yourself, fully and independently.*
- *Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.*

Mason Diversity Statement

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed. http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/

Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence

George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students and employees who believe that they have been sexually harassed, sexually assaulted or subjected to sexual or interpersonal misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students and employees.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual or interpersonal misconduct: *As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Non-Confidential Employee," and must report all disclosures of*

sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

Course Technology Requirements

- *Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at https://mymason.gmu.edu. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)*

- *Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate / Zoom). 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.*

Respondus LockDown Browser

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam can be built into your computer (internal webcam) or can be the type of webcam that plugs in with a USB cable (external webcam). Watch this short video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. A Quick Start Guide for Students is also available.

- *You will need the following system requirements for online exams:*
  - *Windows: 10, 8, 7*
  - *Mac: OS X 10.10 or higher*
  - *iOS: 10.0+ (iPad only). Must have a compatible LMS integration [Details].*
  - *Web camera (internal or external) & microphone*
  - *A reliable internet connection*
  - *Prior to your first exam, you must install LockDown Browser following the step-by-step instructions.*

Privacy

Student privacy is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is an essential aspect of any course. Instructors cannot discuss any student's educational record with their parents, friends, or anyone except with the student or appropriate university representative. Because GMU email is the only one that can be explicitly identified as belonging to you, your instructor will only communicate with you via email using your GMU address, and your instructor will not discuss grades via email. Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu/ for more information.

Course Materials and Student Privacy

- Videorecordings of class meetings that are shared only with the instructors and students officially enrolled in a class do not violate FERPA or any other privacy expectation. Videorecordings that only include the instructor (no student names, images, voices, or identifiable texts) may be shared without violating FERPA (but see below, University Policies: Privacy, for some qualifications and recommendations)
- *All course materials posted to Blackboard or other course site are private to this class; by federal law, any materials that identify specific students (via their name, voice, or image) must not be shared with anyone not enrolled in this class.*
    - *Videorecordings — whether made by instructors or students — of class meetings that include audio, visual, or textual information from other students are private and must not be shared outside the class*
    - *Live video conference meetings (e.g. Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio, textual, or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household or recorded and shared outside the class*

DATE	Class Meeting	Readings	Small Group Presentations	Assignments Due
1/26	Intro to the Course			
2/2	Ethical Systems	Chapter 1		Discussion Forum Introductions Values Journal MindTap Chapter 1 You Decide
2/9	Ethical Systems	Chapter 2		MindTap Chapter 2 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
2/16	Intro to Ethics in Policing			**Ethics Unit Exam (Taken online outside of class)**
2/23	Police Discretion and Dilemmas	Chapter 5	1. Use of Force, Laquan McDonald case example 2. Abuse of Power: Sheriff Joe Arpaio	MindTap Chapter 5 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
3/2	Interrogations	Chapter 6	False Confessions (Norfolk Four Case Example)	MindTap Chapter 6 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
3/9	Police Corruption and Responses	Chapter 7	1. Chicago Police "Code of Silence": Whistleblower Shannon Spalding 2. Agent John Connolly (Whitey Bulger Case Example)	MindTap Chapter 7 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
3/16	Spring Break			NO CLASS
3/23	Intro to Legal Ethics			**Law Enforcement Unit Exam (Taken online outside of class)**
3/30	Attorney Client Privilege	Chapter 8	People v. Belge (Buried Bodies case)	MindTap Chapter 8 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
4/6	Defense Attorneys	Chapter 9	Prosecutor Marty Stroud: Glenn Ford Case	Justice Journal
4/13	Prosecutors		Prosecutor Ken Anderson: Michael Morton Case	MindTap Chapter 9 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
4/20	Judges	Chapter 10	Judge Aaron Persky (Brock Turner case)	MindTap Chapter 10 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz
4/27	Wrongful Convictions			**Legal Ethics Exam (Taken online outside of class)**
5/4	National Security	Chapter 14	Ethics of Torture (Salim v. Mitchell)	MindTap Chapter 14 Why does. . , You Decide and Quiz