

George Mason University
Fairfax Campus, Virginia
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS CRIM-306
Spring Semester 2023

Instructor: Steven Remick
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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 1:30pm - 4:10pm at The Music Theater Building 1006

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

Unfair: *The New Science of Criminal Injustice*; Adam Benforado; Broadway Books, NY

ISBN: 978-0-7704-3778-7

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 homework assignment due Jan 30th.

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

Important Dates

Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Mon. Jan. 30
Labor Day: University Closed	Mon. Sept 5
Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund	Mon Feb. 6
Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund	Mon Feb. 13
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability	Tue. Feb 14 - Mon. Feb 27
Selective withdrawal period Undergraduate Students Only (100% Tuition Liability)	Tue. Feb 28 - Mon. Apr 3
Spring Break	Mon. Mar 13 - Sun. Mar 19
Incomplete Work from Spring/Summer 2021 Due to Instructor	Friday, March 31
Incomplete Grade Changes from Spring/Summer 2021 Due to Registrar	Friday, April 7
Last Day of Class	Sat. May 6

GMU Course Description

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

Course Objectives

This course's main goal will be for each student to determine their Ethos and the Ethical framework it is comprised of.

Another goal is for students to determine the origins of their morals, values, priorities, and belief system. We will do this by completing various writing assignments, in-class exercises, interviews, class discussions, homework assignments and projects.

We will also emphasize the importance of integrity and ethics to everyday life, encourage critical thinking and adopt a multi-disciplinary and multi-level approach to applying ethical theory and decision making.

The class will focus on global ethics and universal values while leaving room for diverse regional and cultural perspectives while balancing general ethics with applied ethics.

GMU Course 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 required in 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 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 = 25%

Homework & other Assignments = 20%

Student Ethos Paper = 10%

Ethos Interview & Paper = 25%

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, and come to class prepared to facilitate productive discussions. Anything presented in class including lectures, readings, handouts, class discussions, guest speakers, video presentations etc. may be seen on homework, quizzes, projects, and other assignments. In our first class we will discuss the larger assignments and projects. Including the different reflection papers and interview assignments, and your Journal. I reserve the right to change any assignments depending on class size, class progression or other logistical reasons. We will discuss everything in class, and I will place announcements on Blackboard to make sure everyone understands their obligations.

One of the most important parts of this class will occur “in class.” We will discuss completed assignments and interviews to discover and compare our ethical framework and the ethical standards 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 grade that work in class each week.

As noted above in the Course Grading Components, a portion of your course grade will be Class Participation including in class exercises, class participation and all quizzes. Obviously, if you are not in class, you will be unable to participate in that class-graded work, which includes quizzes. Since in class work relies on student discussion and exchanging ideas there will be no make-up work for in class participation/graded work as it is not feasible to duplicate the lessons.

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 zero credit. 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 each Guest Speakers lecture, there may also be 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 all grading components for 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 to 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 use Mason's online Blackboard program for all assignments and reading feedback/discussion, 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. **Jan. 23: Introduction to Ethics;** Homework: Read Ch. 1 in textbook, Complete the Student Ethos Paper, Complete the Discussion Board “Introduction”
2. **Jan. 30: Conceptual Framework of Ethics discussion.** Review of the Student Ethos Papers. Homework: Read Ch. 2 & 3 in text; Complete your First Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
3. **Feb. 6: Importance of ethics in criminal justice.** Review Journal entries. Homework: Read Ch. 4 & 5 in text; complete 2nd Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
4. **Feb. 13: Ethics & Universal Values.** Homework: Case Law Paper-SCOTUS assigned; Read Ch. 6 & 7 in your text; complete your 3rd Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
5. **Feb. 20: Ethics & Society.** Homework: Read Ch. 8 in your text; complete your 4th Journal Entry, see Course Content for other homework.
6. **Feb. 27: Diversity, Tolerance & Pluralism.** Homework: Ethos Interview Assignment instructions in class; Read Ch. 9 in your text, complete your 5th Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
7. **March 6: Bias & Ethics.** Homework Read Ch. 10 in your text, complete 6th Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
8. **MARCH 13: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK:** Homework: Read Ch. 11 in your text, complete 7th Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
9. **March 20: Crime & Punishment, moral dilemmas;** Homework: Read Ch. 12 in your text, complete 8th Journal entry, see Course Content for other homework.
10. **March 27: Developing our own ethical compass; Ethos Interview Assignment Due;** Homework: Complete 9th Journal see Course Content for other homework.
11. **April 3: Guest Speaker Attorney Ryan Ruzic; quiz after lecture; Homework: Complete 10th (Final) Journal entry. See Course Content for other homework.**
12. **April 10: TBD. Final Journal due! See Course Content for other homework.**
13. **April 17: TBD. See Course Content for other homework.**
14. **April 24: TBD See Course Content for other homework.**
15. **May 1: Class 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>

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."