

Ethics in Administration of Justice: CRMJ 3200

Syllabus, Spring 2017

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Eric Wodahl
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Office: 325 Arts & Sciences
Office Hours: Mon. 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm & Wed. 9:00 am to 10:30 am

COURSE INFORMATION

Day/Time: MWF – 11:00 – 11:50 am
Room: CR 105
Credit Hours: 3

GA INFORMATION

Name: Kyle Bares
Office: 222C Arts & Sciences
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00am – 11:30am & Thursday 9:00am – 10:30am
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The criminal justice system exerts great power and influence over all our lives. Beginning with elected officials who create the laws and extending down to the line staff who carry out the laws, the decisions and actions made by the actors in the criminal justice system can have monumental and often far-reaching consequences. Much of the power possessed by criminal justice professionals stems from their use of discretion. Police officers, prosecutors, judges, correctional officers, probation officers, and others actors in the system possess high levels of discretion when carry out duties of their profession. In the words of the late Ben Parker, “with great power comes great responsibility.” As such it is imperative for criminal justice professionals to utilize their discretion in an ethical manner.

This course is designed to help prepare students for the difficult decisions they will soon be faced with as they begin their careers in the criminal justice system. We will begin by examining basic principles and theories of ethics as they relate to concepts of justice and the application of the criminal justice system. We then turn our attention to issues of ethics and ethical dilemmas faced by actors in the various components of the criminal justice system, including the law enforcement, the legal system, and the correctional system. Course delivery will involve traditional lecture, guest speakers, and in-class discussions and activities designed to challenge students to apply the material to “real-world” problems and situations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students should possess the following:

- An understanding of the pervasiveness of discretion in the criminal justice system and how this discretion creates ethical dilemmas for criminal justice professionals
- The capacity to critically evaluate ethical dilemmas
- An understanding of various ethical systems and the ability to apply these systems to criminal justice decision making
- An understanding of the ethical dilemmas faced by actors at the various stages of the criminal justice system
- An understanding of the structures in place to control and respond to misconduct by criminal justice professionals

REQUIRED READINGS:

Pollock, J. M. (2017). Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice (9th Ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

* Additional readings will be made available throughout the semester on WyoCourses

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades for this course will be comprised in the following way:

- A. **On-Line Chapter Quizzes** - Each week students will be required to complete an on-line quiz focusing on the assigned chapter for that week. Quizzes can be accessed through WyoCourses. Quizzes will be posted each week (no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday) and must be completed by 10:00 am on Monday. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quizzes. Quizzes are considered open-book, meaning that notes and readings can be used. However, quizzes must be completed individually, and students are not allowed to consult with other class members about the quizzes. Anyone found to be collaborating or assisting other students with quizzes will be subject to the penalties outlined in the Academic Dishonesty section of this syllabus. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth 15 points.
- B. **Take Home Essay Quizzes** - There will be a total of 4 take home essay quizzes throughout the course of the semester. These quizzes will focus on the assigned readings and will be completed in essay style format. Each quiz will be worth 60 points. The questions for the quizzes will be made available at least one week before they are due. Quizzes must be turned in on WyoCourses unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. Quizzes will be graded on both the content and quality of writing.
- C. **Class Participation/Group Discussion** – Throughout the semester, students will be required to participate in a number of in-class discussions and activities related to our study of ethics in the criminal justice system. At 7 random times throughout the course of the semester, your participation in the in-class discussion/activity will be graded. Graded in-class discussions/activities will be worth 10 points each. Each student's two lowest scores will be dropped **at the end of the semester**. Students who miss class on the day of the graded in-class discussion/activity will not be allowed to make-up the points unless the absence is considered an excused absence as outlined in this syllabus.

Grading Scale

On-Line Chapter Quizzes	180 points
Take Home Essay Quizzes	240 points
Class Participation and Group Discussion	50 points
Total	470 points

Grade:	Percentage:
A	90-100%
B+	87-89.99%
B	80-86.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	70-76.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	less than 60%

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work opportunities will only be granted for excused absences. Excused absences include:

1. Participation in an organized school activity
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Illness (with doctor's written excuse or at the discretion of the instructor)
4. Special circumstances that have been approved **in advance** by the instructor

The instructor is the sole arbiter of what (if any) absences are excused. Documentation will be required. All make-up work must be completed during office hours within **ONE WEEK** of the original due date. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete the make-up work. The instructor reserves the right to change the format of all make-up exams, quizzes, and other assignments.

University and Doctor's Excuses:

In order to be considered for an excused absence from an examination, a valid University excuse or doctor's excuse must be obtained. University excuses can be obtained from the Office of Student Life (Room 128 Knight Hall, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070 - telephone: 307-766-3296) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Office of Student Life (OSL) will provide the excuse, provided the student's absence meets the criteria for an authorized absence. For further information on obtaining an excused absence, contact the OSL or visit their website at: <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/OSL/absences.htm>.

Doctor's excuses must be obtained from your attending physician and must state that you were unable to attend the class period that day. Doctor's appointments do not constitute an excused absence. Excuses need to be presented to the instructor by the class period following the excused absence to be accepted.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty in all its forms will not be tolerated in this class. This includes cheating on tests, turning in someone else's work as your own, **plagiarism**, or assisting other students in these activities. Students are expected to do their own work and anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and may receive a failing grade in the class depending on the severity of the transgression. Each student is encouraged to read University Regulation 802 for further information concerning academic dishonesty and the potential consequences.
http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is important to the successful completion of this course. Students are expected to have read assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Students are also expected to check WyoCourses on a regular basis for information pertaining to this course.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to abide by the following rules of conduct:

- (1) No texting or other use of the cell phone in class without prior notification and permission from the instructor.
- (2) No surfing the internet
- (3) No sleeping or giving the appearance of sleeping
- (4) Be respectful

Failure to abide by these rules can result in the student being dismissed from the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

COURSE OUTLINE

January 23:	Introduction/Review Syllabus
January 25:	Chapter 1 – Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
January 27:	Chapter 1 – Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
January 30:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
February 1:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
February 3:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
February 6:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior – No Chapter Quiz This Week
February 8:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
February 10:	No Class – Western Criminology Conference
February 13:	Chapter 3 – Justice and Law
February 15:	Chapter 3 – Justice and Law
February 17:	Chapter 3 – Justice and Law
February 20:	Chapter 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional
February 22:	Chapter 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional
February 24:	Chapter 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional – Take Home Quiz #1 Due
February 27:	Chapter 5 – The Police Role in Society
March 1:	Chapter 5 – The Police Role in Society
March 3:	Chapter 5 – The Police Role in Society
March 6:	Chapter 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas
March 8:	Chapter 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas
March 10:	Chapter 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas
March 13:	No Class - Spring Break
March 15:	No Class - Spring Break
March 17:	No Class - Spring Break
March 20:	Chapter 7 – Police Corruption and Responses
March 22:	Chapter 7 – Police Corruption and Responses
March 24:	Chapter 7 – Police Corruption and Responses
March 27:	Chapter 8 – Law and Legal Professionals
March 29:	Chapter 8 – Law and Legal Professionals
March 31:	Chapter 8 – Law and Legal Professionals – Take Home Quiz #2 Due
April 3:	Chapter 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
April 5:	Chapter 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
April 7:	Chapter 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
April 10:	Chapter 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
April 12:	Chapter 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
April 14:	Chapter 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
April 17:	Chapter 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
April 19:	Chapter 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
April 21:	Chapter 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections – Take Home Quiz #3 Due
April 24:	Chapter 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
April 26:	Chapter 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
April 28:	Chapter 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
May 1:	Chapter 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
May 3:	Chapter 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
May 5:	Chapter 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
May 12:	FINAL Take Home Quiz Due

***Note: This is a tentative class schedule which may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will notify students at least one week in advance of any changes to the test schedule.**