

Ethics & Administration of Justice: CRMJ 4200-01

Syllabus, Spring 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dan Fetsco
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Office Hours: Mon. 9:30-11:30 am & Tues. 9:30-10:30 am and by appointment/request

GA INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Day/Time: Tues. & Thus. – 11:00am – 12:15 pm
Room: EN 3102
Credit Hours: 3

PREREQUISITES

CRMJ 3110, 3350 & 3490

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore and analyze the vast power that the criminal justice system exerts over all of our lives. Starting with the legislators who pass laws, to the law enforcement officers who enforce those laws, to the courtroom actors who argue over and interpret the laws, and the correctional officials who carry out the sentences imposed by the courts, the entire system is marked with an incredible amount of discretion. Discretionary decisions that are made throughout this continuum can have lifelong and devastating consequences.

The course is designed to help students prepare for some of the ethical dilemmas and difficult situations they will face once they begin a career in the criminal justice field. We will begin by studying the historical background for ethical systems and religions, turning our attention to issues of ethics and the ethical quandaries faced by criminal justice professionals. The course will involve traditional lecture, in-class discussion related activities designed to generate intellectual dialogue regarding hypothetical dilemmas, and guest speaker(s).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students should possess the following:

- An understanding of the many ways in which discretion enters into the criminal justice system.
- The ability to critically evaluate ethical dilemmas.
- An understanding of the various ethical systems and how these systems still influence ethical decision-making in the criminal justice system.
- An understanding of the ethical dilemmas faced by criminal justice professionals at various stages of the criminal justice process.
- Knowledge of the institutions in place to control and respond to misconduct by criminal justice professionals.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Pollock, J. M. (2019). *Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice* (10th 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. **Online Chapter Quiz** - Each week students will be required to complete an online 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 11:59 pm on the following Tuesday. 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 quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Each quiz will be worth 15 points.
- B. **Take Home Essay Questions** – There will be a total of four take home essay assignments throughout the course of the semester. These essays will focus on the assigned readings and will be completed in essay style format. Each essay will be worth 60 points. The questions for the essays will be made available at least one week before they are due. Essays must be turned in to me at dfetsco@uwyo.edu. Please submit the essays as a Word document. Essays will be graded on both the content and quality of writing, and additional instructions will be provided when

the assignments are posted.

- 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 seven random times throughout the course of the semester, your participation in the in-class discussion/activity will be graded. Some of the exercises will be announced; for instance, when we have a guest speaker, I will announce it and make the presentation interactive. Other group in-class activities will be unannounced and will involve breaking up into groups of four to five students to discuss ethical issues in the criminal justice system. Graded in-class discussions/activities will be worth ten 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	210 points
Take Home Essays	240 points
Class Participation and Group Discussion	50 points
Total	500 points

Grade:	Percentage:	Class Points:
A	90-100%	450-500
B	80-89.99%	400-449
C	70-79.99%	350-399
D	60-69.99%	300-349
F	less than 60%	000-299

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work/test 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)
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 disability, including but not limited to 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 128 Knight Hall, 766-3073 <http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/> and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS:

The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:

The faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. Under Title IX, the University has a responsibility to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence and/or sexual harassment. Title IX mandatory reporters are required to notify Equal Opportunity Report and Response of any allegation of sexual misconduct. Mandatory reporters at the University include every administrative officer, dean, director, department head, supervisor, and all instructional personnel including your instructor. More information, including access to confidential resources, can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit/policies/index.html>

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 28:	Introduction/Review Syllabus; Chapter 1 - Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
Jan. 30:	Chapter 1 - Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
Feb. 4:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
Feb. 6:	Chapter 2 – Determining Moral Behavior
Feb. 11:	Chapter 3 – Justice and Law
Feb. 13:	Chapter 3 – Justice and Law
Feb. 18:	Chapter 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional
Feb. 20:	Chapter 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional
Feb. 25:	Chapter 5 – The Police Role in Society - Take Home Essay #1 Due
Feb. 27:	Chapter 5 – The Police Role in Society
March 3:	Chapter 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas
March 5:	Chapter 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas
March 10:	Chapter 7 – Police Corruption and Responses
March 12:	Chapter 7 – Police Corruption and Responses
March 16-20:	Spring Break
March 24:	Chapter 8 – Law and Legal Professionals
March 26:	Chapter 8 – Law and Legal Professionals – Take Home Essay #2 Due
March 31:	Chapter 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
April 2:	Chapter 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
April 7:	Chapter 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Court and Responses
April 9:	Chapter 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Court and Responses
April 14:	Chapter 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
April 16:	Chapter 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections – Take Home Essay #3 Due
April 21:	Chapter 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
April 23:	Chapter 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
April 28:	Chapter 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
April 30:	Chapter 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
May 5:	Chapter 14 – Making Ethical Decisions
May 7:	Chapter 14 – Making Ethical Decisions
May 15:	FINAL Take Home Essay #4 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 schedule.**