

## CRJ 411 ETHICS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

### Syllabus

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### **COURSE CREDIT:**

Three Semester Hours

### **PREREQUISITES:**

SOC 201 The Sociological Imagination

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to [www.exstudies.adams.edu](http://www.exstudies.adams.edu) and click on the "ASC Bookstore" icon.

Use **Section Number: 776** to order books from Bookstore site.

### **Required Textbook:**

Pollock, J.M. (2004). *Ethics in crime and justice*, (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson-Wadsworth  
ISBN: 0-534-56349-X

### **Secondary Textbook:**

Meier, R.F., and Geis, G. (1997). *Victimless crime? Prostitution, drugs, homosexuality, abortion*, (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company  
ISBN: 0-935732-46-2

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course focuses on the context of ethics in the criminal justice system. Topics that will be examined include ethical considerations and how these considerations apply to society, the relationship that ethics has with regard to the law, a survey of the law and how these laws have an impact on society, the evolution of ethics, recent court decisions that examine the efficacy of modern law, and the concept of social responsibility. Each of the topics will have cases that have set precedence for future court cases. Prerequisite: SOC 201 The Sociological Imagination

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will examine the connections between ethics, the law, and society:

- by surveying issues of morality, ethics, and human behavior.
- by investigating how ethics relate to justice and the law.
- by analyzing ethics and social control.
- by describing how issues of deviance and immorality impact the law.
- by investigating some of the ways in which the corruption of ethics is rationalized.
- by reviewing examples of contemporary programs dealing with ethical issues.
- by considering the implications of ethics on society.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Assignments:** *All assignments should be completed after reading the text.*

### **Requirement 1: Approximately 50% of final grade.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:** You will read the assignments outlined in this syllabus. After each reading assignment, you are required to complete the chapter review questions at the end of each chapter in the *Ethics in Crime and Justice* textbook. Please type, double-spaced, your answers to the chapter questions. There will be 14 assignments. The response to each of the questions needs to be long enough to give a thoughtful and thorough answer. In addition, several chapters of reading have been assigned from the *Victimless Crime* textbook. It is very important that you complete all of the readings as assigned. Incorporate the readings of both textbooks in your responses to the chapter review questions. Please note: Spelling, grammar and appropriate punctuation will be a part of the grade. *Each assignment is worth 20 points for a total of 280 points.*

### **Requirement 2: 33% of final grade.**

**EXAMS:** You will be required to take a proctored **midterm** and **final exam**. It is the responsibility of the student to secure a location to take the test. If you live near a high school or local community college—they may be good places to take the tests. Extended Studies will mail the exams directly to the proctor at the location where the test will be taken. Please refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and submit your Exam Request Forms. The test will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. **After Assignment 7 has been completed, you may take the midterm exam. After Assignment 14 has been completed, you may take the final exam.** *Each test is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.*

**Requirement 3: Approximately 17% of final grade.**

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS–FINAL PAPER:** After all of your assignments, midterm exam, and final exam have been completed, you may begin working on your final paper. The book *Victimless Crime* addresses the issues of legalizing prostitution, the legalization of drugs, the moral dilemma of homosexuality, and whether or not abortion should be legal. Using the knowledge and concepts that you have learned in the *Ethics in Crime and Justice* textbook, you will analyze all four of the topics listed in *Victimless Crime*.

You will write ONE, five-to seven-page paper, which includes all four of the topics. You will integrate the readings from both books in your papers. In addition to the five-to-seven pages of typed information, you will also include a cover page and reference page. You are required to use at least five additional scholarly resources (books and journals). You may use internet sources; however, you **MUST** include copies of the internet sources with your final paper. Please type your five-to-seven page paper, double-spaced, APA format, include a cover page and reference page. You will also cite from your resources throughout this project as appropriate. Please note: Spelling, grammar, and appropriate punctuation will be a part of the final grade. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** *This paper is worth 100 points.*

**EXTRA CREDIT:** You have the opportunity for one extra credit assignment. Extra credit is only an option for students who have completed all of the assignments. Extra credit may not be done in lieu of any assignment. **This is an optional assignment and is not mandatory.** Find three newspaper, magazine, or journal articles and explain how ethics relates to these articles. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, APA format, complete with a reference page and cover page. All articles **MUST** accompany the extra credit assignment. *The extra credit assignment is worth 50 points.*

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

**Grade Distribution:**

Assignments	280 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Final Paper	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points	580

**Scale:**

522-580	A
464-521	B
406-463	C
348-405	D
347 and below	F

## COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

**ADA Statement:** Students seeking academic accommodation should contact this instructor prior to beginning the course of study.

**IMPORTANT:** Keep a copy of all your assignments in the unlikely event that they get lost in the mail.

If you have any questions about the assignments or any of the information covered in this syllabus, contact your instructor. This class is designed for your success. Make a commitment to yourself and your education. I suggest you first read completely through the Study Guide and then begin working on your assignments! **After Assignment 7 is completed, take the proctored midterm exam. After Assignment 14 is completed, take the proctored final exam.**