

CRIME, JUSTICE AND ETHICS

Justice Studies 475 Spring 2022

Professor:

Gary Reed

Justice Studies Program

Social Science Division

Lewis-Clark State College

Spalding Hall, Room #312

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Phone: (208) 792-2794

Website: Canvas

Class Meets:

Monday/Wednesday 3:00pm-4:15pm

Classroom:

Thomas Jefferson Hall #8

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 1:45pm-2:45pm, and by appointment

Course Description: This course addresses the ethical implications of decision-making in the criminal justice field, including the police, court, and corrections systems. In addition, students will utilize ethical systems to analyze current justice policies.

Goals: It is expected that students will become more adept at utilizing social scientific analysis to understand the relationships between the perceptions and handling of criminal justice dilemmas and their consequences. The written work and verbal presentations of students should reflect systematic, logical arguments clearly supported by theory and research.

Course Requirements:

Report One 25 points

Report Two 25 points

Report Three 25 points

Report Four 1-3 Extra Credit points

Debate 20 points

Midterm Exam 100 points

Term Paper 100 points

Term Paper Presentation 5 points

Final Exam 100 points

Total: 400 points

A 400-372
A- 371-360
B+ 359-348
B 347-332
B- 331-320
C+ 319-308
C 307-292
C- 291-280
D 279-240
F 239-0

Class Participation: Participation includes short reports (approximately two-three typed pages) on selected issues in the readings (to be assigned in class) AND a formal debate. The reports are important because they will serve as preparation for discussions. The reports will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of your social scientific analysis of the assigned material. They will be graded as: excellent, surpassing expectations (A), good, competent work (B), satisfactory (C), not satisfactory (D), failing (F). **REPORTS WILL BE DUE IN CLASS. LATE REPORTS WILL BE PENALIZED A FULL LETTER GRADE (e.g. a late “B” will become a “C”). FOUR (4) REPORTS WILL BE ASSIGNED. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THREE (3). YOU MAY SUBMIT A FOURTH REPORT IF YOU NEED EXTRA CREDIT.**

An “A” extra credit report adds three points to your grade, a “B” is worth two points, and a “C” is worth one point.

Also note that **your reports must contain references for paraphrased and quoted material.** See the term paper assignment for the required style of reference citations. The debates will consist of sets of debate teams (3-5 students per team) discussing the pros and cons of controversial justice policies throughout the semester. Students’ grades will be an average of their group and individual performances. The grade will be worth the equivalent of a report. More details will be provided later in the semester.

In addition, your oral presentation of your term paper will be worth one to five points.

Exams: Two exams (including the final exam) consisting of essay questions will be administered in **Canvas**. Study questions will be available prior to the exams to help you prepare.

Term Paper: Students will choose a topic on a criminal justice dilemma to analyze in an approximately 10- page term paper. Students will be expected to utilize theoretical frameworks presented in the class and class readings. Students are encouraged to pick topics early in the term and discuss them with me. Students will present a summary of their papers to the class near the end of the term. **Students must follow the term paper guidelines at the end of the syllabus.** Students will submit the term paper through a plagiarism checker on Canvas.

Student Conduct: Any student with questions as to what constitutes cheating or plagiarism should consult the instructor in order to avoid any misunderstanding. Students must also keep copies of any written work turned in. Moreover, we will be dealing with controversial issues at

times and it is essential that discussions remain constructive and respectful. 3 Please refrain from gaming, web surfing or using your cell phone during class.

Readings: (Available at the LCSC Bookstore and elsewhere)

Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice, 8th Edition, 2014

Joycelyn M. Pollock Texas State University-San Marcos ISBN-10: 1285062663 ISBN-13: 9781285062662

OR 9th Edition, 2017 ISBN-13: 978-1-305-57737-4

Topics and Assignments: (Due to the nature of academic discussions, the topics listed below will not always correspond to the days' discussions.)

Jan 19: Introduction to the class Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior: Reading: Pollock, chapter 1

Jan 24-26: Determining Moral Behavior: Reading: Pollock chapter 2

Jan 31-Feb 2: Justice and Law: Reading: Pollock, chapter 3

Written Report #1 (Feb 2)

Feb 7-9: Becoming an Ethical Professional: Reading: Pollock chapter 4

Feb 14-16: The Police Role in Society: Crime Fighter or Public Servant?: Reading: Pollock chapter 5

Feb 21: No Class-Presidents' Day

Feb 23: Police Discretion and Dilemmas: Reading: Pollock chapter 6

Written Report #2 (Feb 23)

Feb 28-March 2: Police Corruption and Misconduct: Reading: Pollock chapter 7

March 7-9: Law and Legal Professionals: Reading: Pollock chapter 8

Written Report # 3 (March 9)

Midterm Exam study questions distributed

March 14-16: Discretion, Dilemmas and Zealous Advocates: Reading: Pollock chapter 9

March 16: Midterm Exam 3-4pm Canvas

March 21-23: Ethical Misconduct in the Courts: Reading: Pollock chapter 10

March 28-April 1 Spring Break

April 4-6: The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections: Reading: Pollock chapter 11

April 11-13: Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections: Reading: Pollock chapter 12
DEBATES. Debate reports due April 13

April 18-20: Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses:
Reading: Pollock chapter 13
Written Report #4 (April 20)

April 25-27: Making Ethical Choices I: Reading: Pollock chapter 14
Student Presentations
TERM PAPER DUE APRIL 27 Submitted to Canvas by 11:45 pm.

May 2-4: Making Ethical Choices II: Reading: Pollock chapter 14 Final Exam Study Questions
Posted

May 11 (3-4pm): FINAL EXAM (EXAM #2)

TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT Your task is to choose a criminal justice dilemma to analyze in an approximately ten (10) page (typed and double-spaced) term paper (unique to this class). You will be expected to utilize theoretical frameworks and concepts from class meetings and readings. Be sure to show explicit and substantial use of course readings; however, this is a research project, so do not solely rely upon the course materials (or other courses) for your material. You must also incorporate materials on the topic you have uncovered from outside sources. You are to approach the topic by examining several of the potential perspectives relevant to the subject (where possible). This is not an extended editorial. I will be most happy to discuss more details, outlines, or rough drafts with you; however, I ask that you do not wait until the final days before the paper is due for feedback. In addition, you will be required to give an oral presentation summarizing your key findings. The presentations will be scheduled the last two weeks of class. Some more things to consider:

1. There will be grade deductions of one percent per calendar day for late papers.
2. You must include a half-page abstract of your paper at the beginning of your essay. Your abstract must include: a) The paper title b) A brief explanation of the topic and why this is an important ethics in criminal justice issue, c) Research and analysis methods (e.g. types of sources, theories/concepts used, d) Brief results and conclusions.
3. Make a copy of your paper before you turn it in. In the unlikely case that a paper is found to be missing, you will be expected to be able to produce another copy.
4. **YOUR REFERENCES MUST INCLUDE AT MINIMUM:** Four **ACADEMIC** sources (books or journals, not internet sources) and of these academic sources, one must be the book from the class, and two must be from outside the class. **YOU MUST ALSO USE AT LEAST ONE SOURCE FROM NCJRS.** I encourage you to use Internet sources, but they will not count

toward the minimum six sources (unless they are peer-reviewed journals available on-line via sources such as NCJRS).

5. Reference all paraphrasing and quotes. Use block quotes for quotes longer than 2 sentences. Include a reference page. You are required to use a modified APA style referencing: A recent study (Smoe, 1996) reveals knowledge is good. A more specific paraphrase: Joe Smoe 6 (1996:2) found 90 percent of the people believe knowledge is good. A long quote should be indented on both margins and single-spaced: All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. All work and no play make Jack/Jill a dull person. (Smoe, 1996:3) Here are some useful referencing sites:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_docsocio.html

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html When in doubt, it is better to err on the side of over-referencing sources. If you plagiarize, you will receive an “F” for the assignment.

6. Clear and concise writing, with accurate spelling and proper grammar, makes your analysis flow more smoothly. Awkward grammar and spelling mistakes hinder analysis. The university writing center may be of some assistance.

7. I encourage you to utilize gender-neutral language.

8. The content of your paper should include a description of the topic, a discussion of why the topic is an important and/or interesting ethics issue, and the majority of the paper should be a social scientific analysis of the topic. Assume the reader is not familiar with the field; therefore, you should clarify concepts and theories. Remember to keep the focus of the paper manageable given the paper’s length. Avoid a superficial treatment of a very broad topic.

9. If you are having trouble getting started, browse through the readings for topics, look at the sources referenced in the readings, and think about issues that relate to the connections between the various social institutions covered in the class, such as the economy, family, education, culture, and politics.

10. Remember the paper is worth 25% of your final grade. Visit or e-mail me with any further questions. Your grade will be based upon how well you have addressed the issues above.

11. Your paper must have the following sections labeled with these headings to receive a passing grade:

Topic Description

Topic Importance

Stakeholders Involved

Empirical Issues – What research supports the positions and what research challenges them?

Topic Analysis: Use ethical frameworks and concepts from your textbook.

Future Implications and Conclusions