

CJ 3311-04: Ethics in Criminal Justice

Writing Intensive Course

Spring, 2021

Course Information:

Mondays & Wednesdays

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. (whether F2F or virtual)

Commerce Street Building, C228

Instructor's Information:

Joseph Ugwu, Ph.D.

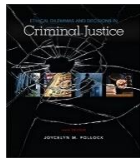
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Email: ugwuj@uhd.edu (All email communications should be sent to this faculty mailbox)

[Meet the Professor Hours](#): Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m., or by appointment

Required Textbook:



Pollock, J.M. (2019). *Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice* (10th Ed.). Cengage Learning. ISBN – 13: 978-1-3375-5849-5

Every student enrolled in this class is required to have the assigned text set out above. The Course Outline shows a description of the topic, readings, and assignments for each week. It is expected that students must have read every assigned chapter before each class. Class discussions and test materials will be based primarily on the assigned readings.

Additional readings for each week will be assigned and posted in the appropriate folder within the course page on Blackboard.

Recommended Reading:

Sandel, M. (2010). *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Course Description:

This course examines ethical decision-making within the criminal justice system. Topics include an overview of ethical systems and ethical dilemmas for professionals in the law, policing, and correctional systems. Ancillary foci of the course are student writing and appropriate use of citation. This is a writing intensive course that adheres to the department policy on writing intensive coursework.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Communicate effectively about ethical issues in criminal justice;
2. Critically analyze current crime and justice dilemmas;
3. Examine how moral and ethical behaviors are developed and analyzed;
4. Use theoretical knowledge to critically analyze and argue one's position on ethical issues in the areas of Policing, Courts, and Corrections; and
5. Develop skills in ethical decision making applicable to a professional environment

Course Requirements:

This section sets out the required course components. Every work submitted in fulfillment of the course requirements must be the student's original work for this semester.

Assignments:

Formatting for all written assignments and references/citations, should conform to the specifications of the American Psychological Association (APA). If you are not familiar with APA citation style, please check out the "APA Cheat Sheet" on Blackboard. You can also see the APA Publication Manual (5th or 6th edition) or visit the following website for assistance:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. In addition, always feel free to contact me if you need further assistance with any of your class assignments for this course.

More specifically, all assignments should be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Every written assignment should have a cover page and a reference page. ALL written assignments will be uploaded through Blackboard and will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.com. The Instructor will not accept late or e-mailed assignments. Always check BB for further assignment instructions.

Do not use Wikipedia or similar sources for assignments.

UHD offers an Academic Support Center where students can go to receive assistance in a number of areas including writing. Please see their website for more information:

<http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/university/asc.html>.

Readings:

It is advisable for students to follow the schedule of reading assignments as set out on the Course Outline. Students should complete the reading assignments before coming to class. Apart from facilitating class discussions, this will allow you time to formulate questions for presentation in

class. In addition to the required text, the course will utilize video presentations and additional handouts that concern issues pertinent to ethics in criminal justice. Course examinations may include information from all sources (textbooks, lectures, video presentations, handouts).

In-Class Participation:

It is my expectation that you will attend classes regularly and on time, and also participate in class discussions. Class meetings may involve large and/or small group discussions. Participation in these/class discussions will be worth 5% of your final grade.

Reflection Assignments:

Students will be required to complete four reflection assignments related to the scenarios discussed in your chapter readings. Instructions for each assignment will be given in class and also posted on Blackboard. These are Turnitin assignments; no hard or emailed copies of your answers will be accepted. You are required to analyze the situations described and logically support your position in line with instructions provided. The four reflection assignments will collectively make up 40% of your final grade. The required length for each reflection assignment is three to five pages, excluding the cover and reference pages.

Your assignment will be evaluated, not on the quantity of what you write, but on the quality of your answers and strict compliance with APA standards. Bear in mind that Turnitin is a tool used in checking originality of written materials with a view to preventing plagiarism. To avoid losing some points, the Turnitin similarity index for your reflection paper must not exceed 10%.

Exams: 2 for a combined total of 35%.

There will be two exams – a Mid-semester and a Final. The two exams will contribute 15% and 20% respectively towards your final grade. None of the exams will be comprehensive, and all of them will be based on the text, supplemental readings and videos, lecture information, and any other materials provided during the semester. Any of the exams may be taken at once, or in two or more instalments. Each exam may comprise restricted response items (multiple choice, true/false, and/or matching) and essay questions.

There is no set date for the mid-semester exam. The instructor will provide an exam date as soon as possible (notice will be given in class and on Blackboard at least one week in advance). It is most ill-advised to miss any of the exams!

Course Project:

To complete this assignment, each student will need to select a specific film or documentary involving an ethical dilemma faced by a criminal justice professional. Watch and research the film or documentary for details and additional information on the nature of the ethical issue portrayed or depicted. The more information you have on the subject, the better your assignment will be. You will submit your research in form of a written paper highlighting:

- what the dilemma was;
- the role of the professional faced with a dilemma;

- the choices that the professional had in that dilemma;
- the decision that was made;
- whether the decision was the right one;
- whether any other stakeholders should have been involved in the decision-making process; and
- the consequences of that decision.

The similarity index for your Course Project must not exceed 10%. This assignment constitutes 20% of your final grade.

Course Project Guidelines—required:

Your Course Project must be typewritten, using 1½ line spacing, between 5-10 pages in length plus cover and references/bibliography. Alternatively, you may prepare a video as your course project, provided that it satisfies the requirements set out in this syllabus and also accompanied by the text version. Every paper must be formatted/referenced according to the American Psychological Association Writing Guidelines. Ensure that your work conforms to proper use of grammar, spelling and sentence structure. All Course Projects will be submitted through the appropriate Turnitin link available on Blackboard. Be advised that this program provides information on unlisted sources, and similarity scores (double submission) among other features of the system. That means you must list all sources used, and check your work properly before final submission. Feel free to use the “Turnitin for Self-check” link on Blackboard.

Your paper (or video) should do a good job of integrating materials from relevant sources. Also, this Paper must be *new*—not merely a version of some previously written Paper and not a Paper written for another class. (Trying to do that may result in getting an “F.”)

Be sure to cite all the sources of quotes and other materials that you borrow, so as to avoid plagiarism (and the consequent danger of getting an “F” for the class and even potentially being dismissed from the Program).

Feel free to send me questions about your Project early on, including issues relating to citation, well before the due date; doing this should make for a better final product, by allowing me to respond with advice and constructive feedback.

Course Projects will be evaluated using the rubric on Blackboard.

The following are good sources to get you started. I remain as a source to give guidance and assistance. To complete a good research paper, you must give yourself time. Start now to put your materials and thoughts together. It is not possible to write a good research paper within 24 hours).

- a. Refereed Academic/ Professional Journals
- b. Books published by Academic Presses
- c. Magazines or Newspapers that are highly regarded
- d. The Mainstream Popular Press
- e. Internet sources (etc).

Extra Credit:

You may submit a copy of each section of your Course Project to the Instructor as soon as possible for extra credit, and also make suggested changes to your draft in line with your feedback. Your extra credit points will be determined by the number of sections/drafts turned in to the Instructor and the suggested corrections made to them.

Grade Breakdown:

Class Participation	5%
Reflection Assignments	40%
Course Project	20%
Mid-semester Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grade Determination:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 0% - 59%

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions promptly and regularly. The professor will take attendance at some point during each class session. A student who misses any class session will be responsible for the subject matter discussed during that particular session. Notes missed (from lecture, guest speakers, presentations, etc.) will need to be obtained from a fellow classmate. It will be extremely difficult for you to obtain an acceptable grade in this course if you consistently miss class.

Academic Honesty:

It is expected that each student will do his/her own work. Cheating, including plagiarism, on any assignment will result in a zero for that assignment and other potential penalties. The UHD Honesty Code states “We will be honest in all our academic activities and will not tolerate dishonesty.”

It is each student’s responsibility to read and understand the Academic Honesty Policy found in the UHD Student Handbook beginning on page 26. All students are urged to read the Handbook which can be found online at <http://www.uhd.edu/campus/handbook/> and to be aware of the penalties associated with being caught cheating or plagiarizing.

Cheating may include (but is not limited to) plagiarism, submitting work that has already been submitted for a different class, taking an examination for another student, and altering graded documents. Plagiarism is the act of using ideas or the work of another person and presenting

them/it as your own. If you have any questions regarding such acts, please feel free to contact me.

A Grade of “Incomplete”:

Please see page 7 of the UHD Student Handbook for an explanation of when a grade of Incomplete is appropriate.

Students with Special Needs:

The University of Houston-Downtown complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UHD strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a documented disability requiring academic adjustments/auxiliary aids, please contact the Office of Disability Services, One Main St., Suite 409 South, Houston, TX 77002, 713-226-5227 (Office), www.uhd.edu/disability/ (Website), disabilityservices@uhd.edu (Email).

Grading:

Grades for assignments and examinations will be posted on UHD Blackboard immediately they are ready. Students can log on to UHD Blackboard to view your grades once they have been entered. Final grades will be posted according to the University schedule. If you ever have a concern about your grade(s) please don't hesitate to speak with me.

My grading policy:

- Your final grade will reflect the time and effort you devote to this course.
- No individual extra credit will be given. It is advisable that you take advantage of any available extra credit opportunity.
- Borderline grades (i.e. those within .05% of the next letter grade) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Your final grade in this course will be based strictly on your work and performance. In other words, the grade you receive will be the grade you earned.

Applications:

Applications we may likely use in this class include the following -

1. Turnitin (for submission of written assignments)
2. Zoom (for virtual course-related meetings)
3. ScreenCast-O-Matic (for virtual delivery of course instructions)
4. LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor (for quizzes, tests, and exams not taken in class)

5. Any other program/application we may consider necessary to enhance course delivery and/or assessment.

General Classroom Policies:

Please review the UHD Student Handbook, specifically the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy. Please adhere to the following general classroom policies for this class:

Cell Phones and Pagers: Please turn all cell phones and pagers to vibrate if you have that setting or silent if you do not. Do not text message during class. I understand emergencies arise. If you receive an emergency call that you must take, please leave class immediately and take the call.

Laptops: A student may use a laptop or PDA to take notes but the sound must be turned off. If you are using a laptop or other electronic device to take notes, I expect that you will be taking notes, not “surfing” the Internet or working on other course assignments.

Audio/Video/Photograph Recording of Lectures: No recording is allowed in the classroom, unless first approved by the professor.

Talking During Class: Disruptive conversations are prohibited.

Sleeping: Sleeping during class will not be tolerated. If you are found sleeping, you will be advised to stay awake or to leave the classroom if staying awake is not possible.

Children in the Classroom: Due to University policy, liability concerns, and the course material, children are not permitted in this class, no exceptions.

Civility: You are expected to display tolerance for others’ views and statements given in class. When disagreement occurs, you should act considerately. All comments and language should be respectful and appropriate for a college community. If you feel you cannot act respectfully or appropriately, please exit the classroom and return only when your emotions and language are under control.

I understand that every once in a while, a student may need to exit the class early. If you know you will need to leave early, please sit near the door so you do not distract the attention of other students when you exit.

Final Points: Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade.

Course Outline and Topics:

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as highly flexible. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings irrespective of this schedule, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the outline

throughout the course of the semester (i.e. video presentations and/or handouts). It will be your responsibility to keep up with these as well. (Key: JMP = Joycelyn M. Pollock text).

Course Outline

Week One:	Jan 17-23
Topic Description	Introductions, syllabus review, text review
Readings:	Read the introduction to the required text
Assignments:	1. Reflection Assignment #1 to be given in class & posted on BB 2. Select a film or documentary for your Course Project
Week Two:	Jan 24-30
Topic Description	Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 1
Assignment:	Submit title of the film/documentary for your Course Project
Week Three:	Jan 31-Feb 6
Topic Description	Determining Moral Behavior
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 2
Assignment:	Reflection Assignment #1 due on Blackboard
Week Four	Feb 7-13
Topic Description	Justice and Law
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 3
Assignments:	1. Work on your Course Project outline 2. Reflection Assignment #2 Given
Week Five:	Feb 14-20
Topic Description:	Becoming an Ethical Professional
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 4
Assignments:	Submit your Course Project outline
Week Six:	Feb 21-27
Topic Description:	The Police Role in Society
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 5
Assignments:	Reflection Assignment #2 due on Blackboard
Week Seven:	Feb 28-March 6
Topic Description:	Police Discretion and Dilemmas
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 6
Assignment:	Reflection Assignment #3 Given

Week Eight:	March 7-13
Topic Description:	Police Corruption and Responses
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 7
Assignments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue work on your Course Project 2. Reflection Assignment #3 due on Blackboard 3. Review for Mid-semester Exam
Week Nine:	March 14-20
Topic Description:	Law and Legal Professionals
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 8
Assignments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid-semester Exam due 2. Reflection Assignment #4 Given
Week Ten:	March 21-27
Topic Description:	Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 9
Assignment:	Complete work on your Course Project
Week Eleven:	March 28-April 3
Topic Description:	Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 10
Assignments:	Reflection Assignment #4 due on Blackboard
Week Twelve:	April 4-10
Topic Description:	The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 11
Assignment:	Submit your Course Project on Blackboard
Week Thirteen:	April 11-17
Topic Description:	Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 12
Assignment:	Submit any uncompleted course assignment
Week Fourteen:	April 18-24
Topic Description:	Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
Readings:	JMP, Ch. 13
Assignment:	Review for Final begins

Week Fifteen: April 25-May 1
Topic Description: Making Ethical Choices
Readings: JMP, Ch. 14

Assignment: Review for Final Exam

Week Sixteen: May 2-8
Topic Description: Final Exam Period (May 8-14)
Readings: Review Guide for Final Exam
Assignment: Check Final Exam Timetable