

## **Justice 300X (CRN 51121)**

### **Ethics and Justice**

MayMester

May 4 - 15, 2020

(Some Due Dates are extended to 4/22/20 because of the COVID-19 adjustments; see schedule below)

**Professors:** Jeff May, J.D., M.A., Associate Professor - Email: [jdmay@alaska.edu](mailto:jdmay@alaska.edu)

Melvin Colley, M.A., Adjunct Professor - Email: [mcolley2@alaska.edu](mailto:mcolley2@alaska.edu)

**Office Location:** 502 B Gruening Building

**Office Hours:** All appointments will be via phone or video conference

**Class Meetings:** Because of the COVID-19 adjustments this course will be delivered online and supplemented with a daily video/audio class meeting

### **Course Description**

This course familiarizes students with several common philosophies used to analyze the ethical nature of conduct. Additionally, the course explores the ethical problems and challenges encountered in the various parts of the justice system (law enforcement, litigation, sentencing, corrections, and policy making). Students will be able to evaluate foundational premises behind justice system goals and practices and assess them in light of ethical philosophies. We teach this course in an applied ethics approach where examples of current and past practices are presented for students to evaluate and decide what they would do. Mr. May is a lawyer and currently works as a part-time rural judge. Mr. Colley is an Alaska State Trooper. We will work to bring real life practical examples for students to consider. While short in duration, this two-week, three credit course is intensive. Diligence is required, and there is no time for procrastination. Students will enjoy exploring topics through group discussion using video/telephone conferencing, individual assignments, and from listening to several excellent guest speakers.

### **Course Objectives**

This course has two primary purposes: 1) to acquaint students with popular models for assessing the ethical nature of conduct, and develop an ability to apply the models to current justice system policy and practice; and 2) familiarize students with ethical issues commonly arising throughout the criminal justice system.

### **Method of Instruction**

This course is presented in an online format supplemented by several mandatory video/phone group meetings. There is a Blackboard internet learning site for this course,

and each student is enrolled in that site. Students should access the Blackboard course early and become familiar with its layout. You will be accessing the course instructional material through that site. The syllabus, assignments, and non-text readings are all available through this website located in a folder corresponding with each class day. You will also submit your assignments and take your exams through Blackboard.

All email communication between the instructor and the students will be addressed to the students' UAF webmail accounts. Personal hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc. accounts will not suffice unless you have linked your webmail account to your personal account. Students must set up their UAF webmail accounts by the second day of class. You will have access to all your classmates' emails through the Blackboard site.

Participation: Participation in the group discussions/lectures is 10% of your grade. While we will not meet in person for class, students are expected to participate in the scheduled video/telephone meetings. The date and time for these meetings are listed in the schedule below.

Assignments: During the course students will be assigned two writing assignments (none to exceed 10 single-spaced pages). These assignments are graded considering both substance/content, correct grammar/punctuation, and proper citation of source material. There is also an oral presentation assignment. *The due dates for your second writing assignment and oral presentation are extended to 4/22/20 because of the change in this course to online in response to the COVID-19 situation. See schedule below.*

Exams: You have two exams (one each week) that cover the materials from the assigned readings, guest presentations, and class discussions. The exams are available through Blackboard.

## **Text**

*Justice Crime and Ethics*, Braswell et.al., Tenth Edition, ISBN # 9780367196363 (paperback) or #9780429203626 (ebook)

*This text is required, but we encourage students to find the best deal possible through whatever source available to them. Please note that you must have your text prior to class beginning, as we will be discussing our first two chapters on day one.*

## **Grades**

Exams	35%
Assignments	55%
Participation	10%

## **Grading Scale**

97% and 100% (A+)

94% and less than 97% (A)  
90% and less than 94% (A-)  
87% and less than 90% (B+)  
84% and less than 87% (B)  
80% and less than 84% (B-)  
77% and less than 80% (C+)  
74% and less than 77% (C)  
70% and less than 74% (C-)  
67% and less than 70% (D+)  
64% and less than 67% (D)  
60% and less than 64% (D-)  
0% and less than 60% (F)

### Reading and Assignment Schedule

**Note:** The Readings and Assignments are subject to change and/or be adjusted according to need as perceived by the instructor. We will discuss any changes to the schedule in class. **Students should attend the Day 1 Video/phone meeting having read the first two chapters of the text.**

Day 1 (May 4)

Exploratory thoughts on ethics, and traditional ethical theories: Chapter 1 (Ethics, Crime, and Justice: An Introductory Note to Students); and Chapter 2 (Utilitarian and Deontological Approaches to Criminal Justice Ethics)

*Read Day 1 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 1 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

Day 2 (May 5)

Peacemaking approach to ethics: Chapter 3 (Justice, Ethics, and Peacemaking); Chapter 14 (Restorative Justice and Ethics: Real World Applications); Differing Ethical Perspectives Inherent in the Criminal Justice System. Discussion of Crime Control vs. Due Process Models, differences between Retributive, Restorative, and Procedural Justice, and Personal vs. Professional Ethics

*Read Day 2 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 2 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

**Writing Assignment 1, due Saturday, May 9th via electronic Blackboard submission.**

Day 3 (May 6)

Ethics and Lawyering: Chapter 8 (What Ever Happened to Atticus Finch? Lawyers as Legal Advocates and Moral Agents); Chapter 9 (Prosecutor Misconduct) (Ethical Challenges for Prosecutors)

*Read Day 3 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

**Explain Recorded Oral Presentation Assignment due May 22nd**

*Day 3 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*  
**(Guest visit from local defense attorney and/or prosecutor)**

Day 4 (May 7)

Ethics and the Courts: Chapter 10 (Criminal Sentencing: Goals, Practices, and Ethics); Chapter 11 (Crime and Punishment: Punishment Philosophies and Ethical Dilemmas)

*Read Day 4 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 4 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

Day 5 (May 8)

Ethics and the Courts cont.'d: Chapter 12 (To Die or Not to Die: Morality, Ethics, and the Death Penalty)

*Read Day 5 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 5 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

**Exam #1 - The exam is on Blackboard and is due by the end of the day**

Day 6 (May 11)

Ethical Issues in Policing: Chapter 4 (Learning Police Ethics); Chapter 5 (Using Ethical Dilemmas in Training Police);

*Read Day 6 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 6 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

**Writing Assignment #2 - due on Saturday, May 16th via electronic Blackboard submission**

Day 7 (May 12)

Ethical Issues in Policing cont.'d: Chapter 6 (Deception in Police Interrogations); Chapter 7 (Police Ethics, Legal Proselytism, and the Social Order: Paving the Path to Misconduct);

*Day 7 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 7 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*  
**(Guest visit from Investigator regarding interrogation)**

Day 8 (May 13)

Ethical Issues in Corrections: Chapter 13 (Ethical Issues in Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections); Chapter 15 (Prison Corruption);

*Read Day 8 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 8 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*  
**(Guest visit from Corrections Officer)**

Day 9 (May 14)

Ethical Issues in Corrections, cont.'d: Chapter 16 (Ethics and Prison: Selected Issues)

*Read Day 9 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 9 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

Day 10 (May 15)

Criminal Justice Reform: Contemporary Policy Choices

*Read Day 10 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

*Day 10 Zoom video/phone class meeting at 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.*

**Exam #2 - The exam is in Blackboard and is due by the end of the day**

## **Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the office so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

## **Course Policies**

### **A. Plagiarism and Other Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will adversely impact your grade by receiving a failed assignment and/or failure for the entire class. Plagiarism consists of representing the work of another as your own. You are encouraged to use outside research, but give appropriate credit to the "true" author through proper citation or use of quotations.

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to Student Code of Conduct.

([http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog\\_08-09/academics/regs3.html#Student\\_Conduct](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_08-09/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct))

### **B. Classroom Conduct**

Students are required to read and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Students are required to assist in fostering a suitable learning environment in the classroom and in online class activities. Profanities, rude, and other dismissive statements, gestures, or actions will not be tolerated and subject the offender to immediate removal from class.

### **C. Missed Exams and Quizzes**

If a student is going to miss an exam or quiz, the student must arrange with the professor to take the exam/quiz at an alternate time **before** the date of the exam/quiz. Failure to do so may result in a zero score for that exam/quiz.

### **D. Late Assignments**

Assignments turned in late will be accepted, but at a letter grade deduction. Assignments must be turned in by May 22<sup>nd</sup> or they will not be accepted.

### **E. Participation**

Students are expected engage fully in the class and be prepared for thoughtful discussion of the materials assigned during both our daily video/audio class meetings and in the via Blackboard discussion forums. There are 100 participation points available (10 per class day). Our expectations for meaningful participation in those discussion forums is set forth in a Discussion Rubric located under the Course Information tab on Blackboard. Each

student is expected to post their own initial response to the question/task and provide feedback to two other classmates' responses. Our expectation for meaningful participation in daily Zoom class meetings is that you attend and contribute to the discussion when invited to.

#### **F. How to Submit Assignments and Check Your Grades**

Each of your assignments will be submitted electronically via blog post threads or through Blackboard by clicking on the title to the assignment within each Lesson folder. Grades will be reported in the Grade Center on Blackboard and through individual feedback from the instructor. Check your grade by clicking on the 'My Grades' link in the left side menu of the Blackboard course shell. A green icon indicates that the assignment has not been graded. Please read all instructor feedback provided on graded assignments.

#### **G. Explanation of W, NB, and I Grades**

##### **Withdrawals**

Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort. To this end, this course adheres to the following UAF eLearning & Distance Education procedures:

- 1. Failure to submit the first CONTACT assignment within the first week of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.*
- 2. Failure to submit the first CONTENT assignment within the first two weeks of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.*
- 3. Failure to submit the first three content assignments by the deadline for faculty-initiated withdrawals (the ninth Friday after the first day of classes) could result in instructor initiated withdrawal from the course (W).*

##### **No Basis Grades**

This course adheres to the UAF eLearning Procedure regarding the granting of NB Grades. The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.

##### **Incompletes**

Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy. "The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

#### **H. Support Services**

**UAF eLearning Student Services** helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination

process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eLearning Student Services staff at 907- 479-3444 or toll free 1-800-277-8060 or contact staff directly - for directory listing see: <http://distance.uaf.edu/staff/> .

#### **UAF Writing Center**

The Writing Center is a student-staffed, student-oriented service of the English Department. Tutors can assist you in all phases of the writing process, including the following: brainstorming and generating topics, organizing ideas, developing research strategies, use of citation styles (MLA, APA, and Chicago), and editing for clarity and correctness. Tutors collaborate with each student on a one-to-one basis in any phase of the writing process: planning, drafting, or revising. They also help writers discover ways of improving grammar, mechanics, and punctuation.

<http://www.alaska.edu/english/writing-center/>

Phone: (907) 474-5314

#### **UAF Help Desk**

See (<http://www.alaska.edu/oit/>) to see about current network outages and news.

Reach the Help Desk at:

· e-mail at [helpdesk@alaska.edu](mailto:helpdesk@alaska.edu)

· fax at (907)-450-8312

phone in the Fairbanks area is 450-8300 and outside of Fairbanks is 1-800-478-8226

#### **Disability Services**

The UAF Office of Disability Services operates in conjunction with CDE. Disability Services, a part of UAF's Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services.

If you believe you are eligible, please visit their web site

(<http://www.uaf.edu/apache/disability/>) or contact a student affairs staff person at your nearest local campus. You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks Campus by phone, 907-474-7043, or by e-mail ([fydso@uaf.edu](mailto:fydso@uaf.edu)).

#### **J. The Fine Print**

This syllabus, and the delivery of the course, is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. You will be notified of any such changes.