

**MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

STUDENT COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice **COURSE NO.:** CJS 255 **CRN:** 3445

SEMESTER: Fall 2015

SEMESTER HOURS: 3

CLOCK HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Dawn M. Bradanini

CLASS MEETING TIME: Online

TELEPHONE: (860) 977-9605

EMAIL: dbradanini@mxcc.commnet.edu AND
dylan4799@yahoo.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students explore ethical issues and value conflicts from the standpoint of persons assuming roles in the Criminal Justice Profession including but not limited to police officers, correctional officers, and probation officers. These roles are within organizations providing services to the public. Emphasis is on responsibility, accountability and personal and professional value systems. Morality, corruption, misconduct and ethical choices will be examined in great detail.

PRE- OR CO-REQUISITE:

NONE

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice

Author: Pollock

ISBN: 9781285062662

Copyright Year: 2014

Publisher: Cengage Learning

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. Outline the moral and ethical issues people face in the criminal justice field
2. Identify examples of how discretion permeates every phase of the criminal justice system and creates ethical dilemmas for criminal justice professionals.
3. Explain why the study of ethics is important for criminal justice professionals.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

TECHNOLOGY:

Students will utilize Blackboard Learn. In addition students may use PowerPoint and any other systems deemed necessary.

PARTICIPATION:

Self motivation will be very important for success in this class. It is an intellectually rigorous course with challenging readings. Staying on top of your weekly reading and assignments is most important. In addition be certain to check Announcements daily as there will be specific necessary information.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Your final grade will be comprised of a midterm, final, discussion board and writing assignment.

Midterm Exam: 20 points
Final Exam: 20 points
Discussion Board: 40 points (large part of your entire grade)
Writing Assignment: 20 points

Extra Credit:

“Extra credit” opportunities will not be offered on an individualized basis. This course is structured in such a way that student reading, participation and the course writing assignment provide each student with the opportunity to achieve a satisfactory grade.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

A =93-100; A- =90-92; B+ =87-89; B =83-86; B- =80-82; C+ =77-79; C =73-76;
C- =70-72; D+ =67-69; D =63-66; D- =60-62 all other grades will reflect an F on your transcript.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM:

Please see the course outline for the release dates. The midterm and final are each worth 20% of your final grade. Please see Blackboard for the grading rubric.

DISCUSSION BOARD:

In order to receive full credit for the discussion board, you must log on regularly and respond to the current question as well as interact with your classmates. You **MUST** respond according to the Announcement Instructions each week. Generally, it is at least two other postings for each question in order to receive full credit. You will be graded on how completely you answer the assigned question and by the quality of your responses to other postings. Please see Blackboard for the grading rubric. Remember the bulletin board consists of 40% of your final grade. **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR LATE POSTINGS!** PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WEDNESDAY DUE DATE.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Each student will be given the opportunity to choose a topic of discussion. You must then prepare a four-page paper. The writing assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade. Details of the assignment will be discussed in depth during the first week of class. You may also view the assignment on Blackboard. See attached course outline for due dates. **You must approve your writing assignment topic by Blackboard no later than Week 5. You must upload your Writing Assignment to Blackboard no later than Week 15. Late assignments will be accepted only up to a week after their due date and will be marked down one letter grade regardless of how late they are - with prior approval. If later than one week, student will receive a grade of 0.**

ANTI-PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE

SafeAssign, TurnItIn or other anti-plagiarism detection software products may be used in this course. Anti-plagiarism detection software products assist faculty and students in preventing and detecting plagiarism. Professors may utilize such software in order to check the originality of the academic work students submit in a course by comparing submitted papers to those contained in its database consisting of submitted papers and other sources. Anti-plagiarism detection software returns an “originality report” for each submission. The report is limited in scope to merely identifying passages that are not original to the author of the submitted work and which may include correctly cited quotations and information. Professors and students must carefully review such reports. No adverse action may be taken by a professor with respect to a student solely on the basis of an originality report which indicates the potential for plagiarism.

In this course you may be asked to submit your academic papers and other creative work containing personally identifiable information for originality reporting. By doing so, your work along with personally identifiable information will be retained in the product database and may be subsequently reported out containing your personally identifiable information not only to your professor, but also to professors of other universities and colleges within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) as part of subsequent originality reports.

You may decline to submit your work for originality reporting. If so, you must be provided an alternative method in which to submit your work. However, your professor, after removing your personally identifying information, may nonetheless submit limited portions of your academic work for originality reporting.

The Writing Assignment will be submitted via a Safe Assign Assignment in the Blackboard Course Shell. Please note that assignments that are not submitted via Blackboard will not be accepted.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, QUIZZES OR EXAMS:

These all have scheduled dates. The college does not provide facilities for making up tests nor do I allow make-ups. If I see a need for a make-up (valid reason and prior permission) within a reasonable time frame a minimum of 10 points will automatically be deducted each day it is late.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 10/28 Midterm Exam
- 12/6 Writing Assignment
- 12/18 Final Exam

COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE NEW MATERIAL WILL BE RELEASED WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK **WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR AN ENTIRE WEEKEND HOWEVER BEAWARE ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN THE FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY BY MIDNIGHT.**

WEEK 1: August 31 – September 9

Introduction. Course Overview.

Part I Ethics and the Criminal Justice System

Chapter 1: Morality, Ethics and Human Behavior p. 3

WEEK 2: September 9 - September 16

Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior p 23

WEEK 3: September 16 - September 23

Chapter 3: Justice and Law p. 52

WEEK 4: September 23 - September 30

Chapter 4: Becoming an Ethical Professional p. 75

WEEK 5: September 30 – October 7

Chapter 5: The Police Role in Society p.101

WEEK 6 October 7 – October 14

Chapter 6: Police Discretion and Dilemmas p. 133

WEEK 7 October 14 – October 21

Chapter 7: Police Corruption and Misconduct p.173

WEEK 8 October 21 – October 28

Chapter 8: Law and Professionals p.217

*****MIDTERM EXAM DUE: Wednesday October 28th 11:59pm

WEEK 9 October 28 – November 4

Chapter 9: Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession p. 247

WEEK 10 November 4 – November 11

Chapter 10: Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses p. 283

WEEK 11 November 11 – November 18

Part IV Corrections

Chapter 11: Ethics of Punishment and Corrections p. 315

WEEK 12 November 18 – November 25

Chapter 12: Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections p. 347

*****REMINDER: WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: Sunday December 6 11:59pm

WEEK 13 November 25 – December 2

Chapter 13: Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses p. 371

WEEK 14 December 2 – December 9

Chapter 14: Making Ethical Choices p. 391

*****WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE: Sunday December 6 11:59pm

WEEK 15 December 9 – December 18

*****FINAL EXAM DUE: Friday December 18th 11:59pm

****The instructor reserves the right to adjust dates/chapters due to any unforeseen changes.**

WITHDRAWAL:

Withdrawal: Student may withdraw from the class with a grade of “W” before the 4th week of classes. After that date, students will receive a “W” or an “F.” Students may withdraw from the course only after speaking with the instructor and filing all the proper paperwork. Note: The primary responsibility for initiating a withdrawal rests with the students. Withdrawal from the course is official only when initiated in writing through the Records office, all requested signatures are obtained, and the proper papers are filed with the Records Office by the indicated deadlines.

THE FINAL DAY THAT I WILL SIGN A WITHDRAWAL WILL BE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13th. No withdrawals will be signed after that point.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Adrienne Maslin
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123|
- Secondary Title IX Coordinator
Ms. Queen Fordham
Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011