

01:202:496:80 Special Topics: **ETHICS and CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Criminal Justice Program, Rutgers University

Professor: Ellen McCann

Thursdays: 6:00 pm – 8:40 pm

Email: emccann72@aol.com

General Description of the Course:

This course will cover a wide range of both academic and practical topics and applications of the ethical and philosophical underpinnings of criminal justice. Using both classic and modern theory, students will address relevant and important dilemmas faced by criminal justice professionals every day.

Dates of Note:

Movie Assignment Due dates: 9/30 and 11/4

Exam 1: 10/7

Exam 2: 11/11

Final: 12/16

Grades:

20% Attendance, Participation, In-class assignment write-ups, and Quizzes

20% 1st Exam

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Exam

20% Movie Assignments

Required Texts:

Rachels, J., & Rachels, S. (2007). The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 5th Ed. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Williams, C.R., & Arrigo, B.A. (2008). Ethics, Crime and Criminal Justice. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**Other readings will be assigned throughout the course, but not in text format.*

Quizzes, Attendance and In-Class Assignments:

Quizzes and in-class assignments are not available for make-up unless you have an EXCUSED absence, and will be due upon the first day the student returns to class. If you must miss class and are excused as outlined below by University definition, you must contact the professor explaining such and attain the assignment(s) so that you can come prepared to the next class with your work to hand in.

Excuses are outlined by the University, including but not limited to doctor's appointments, funerals, and religious observances; also included are University-sanctioned events such as conferences, athletic events in which one takes part as a University team member, and other such instances. All excused absences must be PRE-APPROVED by the professor unless impossibly be presenting circumstances and all excuse notes become property of the professor. Any counterfeit notes or excuses such as doctor's notes are grounds for failing this course.

Movie Assignments:

Students will be assigned 2 essays during the semester that will apply theories to films shown in class. The assignments are intended to help hone writing skills, while utilizing each student's ability to make concrete points using abstract theory.

Exam Make-up Policy:

As defined above, only excused absences are grounds for a make-up exam, and MUST be made apparent and approved **before the exam start time**, including the final.

Special note about movies and other missed work:

It is important that you, as a student, take full responsibility for catching up on any and all missed work that occurs as a result of excused or unexcused absences. Notes and other course materials are the responsibility of the student, and the professor will not provide such work to any student. If you are absent when the class is scheduled to watch a movie, be sure to watch it on your own, as all films for this course are readily available at your local library or movie store.

Other vital information:

Students with disabilities are advised to contact the department so that arrangements may be made with the instructor to meet special learning needs of the student.

Academic Freedom is a fundamental right in any institution of higher learning. Honesty and integrity are necessary preconditions of this freedom. Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses and will be handled as such.

Dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information. For more information on these topics and the penalties available to your professor, please refer to the University Website. If you are dishonest by any of these standards, you will fail this course, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Tentative Schedule:

- 9/2 Introduction to the Course and first in-class assignment
- 9/9 Williams & Arrigo (W&A) Chapter 1; Rachels & Rachels (R&R) Chapter 1; In-class assignment
- 9/16 W&A Chapter 2; R&R Chapter 13; In-class assignment
- 9/23 W&A Chapter 3; Watching *Sophie's Choice* – movie assignment given, due next class
- 9/30 W&A Chapter 4; R&R Chapters 2 & 3; *Sophie's Choice* assignment due and discussion
- 10/7 EXAM #1
- 10/14 W&A Chapter 5; R&R Chapter 5; In-class assignment
- 10/21 W&A Chapter 6; R&R chapter 4; In-class assignment
- 10/28 W&A Chapter 7; Watch *Serpico* – movie assignment given, due next class
- 11/4 *Serpico* assignment due; W&A Chapter 8; R&R Chapters 6, 7, and 10
- 11/11 Exam #2
- 11/18 W&A Chapter 9; R&R chapters 8 & 9
- 11/25 Thanksgiving
- 12/2 W&A Chapter 10; R&R Chapter 12; In-class assignment
- 12/9 Watch *Thank You for Smoking*; Review for Final; Papers Due
- 12/16 FINAL EXAM

This schedule WILL be altered throughout the course of the semester and it is your responsibility as the student to be aware of these changes as they are announced in class.