



Graduate Course Syllabus

JUS 603: Law, Ethics, and Justice System

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

An inquiry into the interplay of law, morality, ethical reasoning and Western Legal tradition. The course exposes the tradition and foundations of the American legal system with special emphasis on its jurisprudential foundations. Questions of right, justice, equity, law as moral command and order, natural law reasoning and the dignity of the human person are central to the instruction. The course delivers a critical look at how our legal and justice institutions have come about and provides a method for dealing and delving into perennial legal and moral problems that plague cultures. Overview of the major legal theories about the nature of law and its place in the political system. Among the issues considered is the origin of law, its relationship with divine law, obligations of obedience and disobedience, and the relationship between political sovereignty and law.

Course Outcomes

- To discover the roots and foundation of essential concepts pertinent to the American justice system, including the idea of law, the nature of justice and principles of right
- To weigh and assess historical schools of legal and justice ethics
- To critically read and analyze significant works in law and justice which directly bear on ethical dilemmas common to criminal and civil justice
- To read and brief legal cases that dwell on crucial ethical issues in criminal justice
- To become familiar with the various professional codes which attempt to define ethical conduct in criminal justice professions
- To assess and analyze factual situations for ethical problems
- To plan and implement policy with attentiveness to ethical constraints
- To evaluate the role of criminal culpability and moral responsibility in legal contexts
- To critique various schools of criminal liability
- To delve into common occupational problems for criminal justice practitioners
- To compare and contrast modern ethical thought with ancient and medieval approaches

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice

Pollock, Joycelyn M.

Cengage Learning

8th Edition

2014

ISBN: 978-1-285-06266-2

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions forum in Blackboard so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	16	16	256
Short Papers	9	35	315
Final Paper	1	294	294
		Total Course Points:	865

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Total Points. 865				
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4.00	804	865
A-	90-92	3.67	779	803
B+	87-89	3.33	753	778
B	83-86	3.00	718	752
B-	80-82	2.67	692	717
C+	77-79	2.33	666	691
C	73-76	2.00	631	665
F	0-72	0.00	0	630
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
W	Withdrawn			

*Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. Assignments and discussion board posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Aristotle on Justice 1-1 Discussion: Lying and Justice 1-2 Final Paper: Review Final Paper Document 1-3 Short Paper
2	Aquinas on Law and Natural Law 2-1 Discussion: Supreme Court Justices Debate the Constitution 2-2 Discussion: Natural Law Theory 2-3 Short Paper

3	<p>Ethics in the Context of a Criminal Justice System</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapters 1 and 2</p> <p>3-1 Discussion: Rules and Ethics</p> <p>3-2 Short Paper</p> <p>3-3 Final Paper: Paper Topic</p>
4	<p>Particular Problems in Ethics and Crime</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapters 3 and 5</p> <p>4-1 Discussion: Prostitution Stance</p> <p>4-2 Discussion: Drug Legalization</p> <p>4-3 Short Paper</p>
5	<p>Particular Problems in Ethics and Crime</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapters 6, 7, and 8</p> <p>5-1 Discussion: Abortion</p> <p>5-2 Short Paper</p>
6	<p>Ethics and Policing</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: Codes</p> <p>6-2 Discussion: Deception</p> <p>6-3 Short Paper</p>
7	<p>Ethics and Lawyers</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Immorality</p> <p>7-2 Short Paper</p>
8	<p>Ethics in Criminal Process</p> <p>Reading: <i>Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice</i>, Chapters 11 and 12</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: Defendants' Rights</p> <p>8-2 Discussion: Balance</p> <p>8-3 Short Paper</p>
9	<p>Ethics and the Correctional Setting</p> <p>9-1 Discussion: Punishment</p> <p>9-2 Discussion: Death Penalty</p> <p>9-3 Short Paper</p> <p>9-4 Final Paper: Submit</p>
10	<p>The Pitfalls of Moral Judgement</p> <p>10-1 Discussion: Reflection</p> <p>10-2 Discussion: Shades of Gray</p>

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to post to the Blackboard discussion board during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the discussion board during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success

Review the [guide to student success](#).

Diversity and Disability Statement

The College of Online and Continuing Education (COCE) at SNHU values diversity and inclusion. SNHU strives to create inclusive and welcoming academic environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion, please notify the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. We will work with you and your instructor to address needs and concerns.

We encourage all students with known or suspected physical, medical, sensory, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in order to assess learning needs and take advantage of available academic accommodations and support services. We look forward to hearing from you. Our contact information is below.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

(866) 305-9430

(877) 520-8916 (fax)

drc@snhu.edu

We welcome COCE students, faculty, and staff to consult with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on disability-related questions or concerns.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

Assessment Calibration and Student Work Samples

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please contact the assessment calibration administrator at assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu. See [this document](#) for more information.