



Course Syllabus Fall 2026

CRJU 6433 The Ethics of Criminal Justice

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Attapol Kuanliang

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Phone: 940-397-4745

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Monday and Friday by appointment only

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Webpage: [Faculty Profile](#)

Text: Pollock, J. M. (2019). *Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice*, (10th ed.). Independence, KY: Cengage Learning, ISBN 9781337558495.

Class Description:

The Ethics of Criminal Justice (Catalog) Credit 3 semester hours. Ethics and moral philosophy in criminal justice including the role of natural law, constitutional law, code of ethics and philosophical principles. Strong emphasis will be put on examining the role of justice in a free society and the practical implications of justice to practitioners of police, courts and corrections.

Course Objective:

This course will focus on ethical issues within the criminal justice community emphasizing aspects of professional behavior of the individual and the agency. Topics include an overview of criminal justice ethics, defining ethics, ethical principles, ethics in everyday applications, creating an ethics policy, enforcing ethical guidelines, ethical

behavior in a hierarchical framework, differences in ethical viewpoints, and timely case studies. Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine the foundation for modern ethical thought in the criminal justice profession.
2. Analyze the root causes of misconduct by criminal justice professionals.
3. Evaluate the role of leadership and accountability in the criminal justice system.
4. Prepare an ethics training program for a Criminal Justice organization (Police, Prosecutor's office, or Corrections).
5. Develop the beginnings of a criminal justice ethics policy for a specific criminal justice organization.
6. Assess how the culture and subculture of Criminal Justice organizations may work as an impediment to ethical behavior.

The above objectives are to be achieved through a process involving readings, lectures, class discussions, independent research, and exams.

Course Format:

The class is 100% online; there are no class meetings. All homework, assignments and examinations are to be completed online no later than the final due dates for each assignment stated in course schedule. If you have questions regarding the reading material, quizzes, and exams, you have to post your question each week in the question forum. If you would like to chat with me live, you can do so during my office hours by using Zoom. Note: Meetings, official university business and other situations may necessitate a change in or cancellation of office hours. I will e-mail you through the D2L account. Therefore, it's your responsibility to check your D2L account and log in to the class regularly.

Course Requirements:

1) Introduction: Due the internet course format, the personal introduction is intended help students to get acquainted with each other. The student's introduction should include information that the student is willing to share about him or herself, for example, hometown, major, classification, your goal or objective of life. Photo is encouraged to be included in the introduction. If you have any problem or question, you should contact the computing center. After you introduce yourself in the introduction forum, each of you has a responsibility to post and welcome each other to this online class.

2) Discussion: This is the primary method of communicating ideas with other students and the instructor. All students must participate in discussions about the readings, uploaded materials, websites, and outside materials in a true seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of a discussion forum. Student's participation in the discussions will be graded.

These assignments are on the D2L platform for the course and are given throughout the semester and allow the student to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned material in an open-ended essay format. Postings must be from **250 to 350** words in length and are due by 11:55 on Sunday at the end of the week that they are assigned.

Do note that the posting must be provided by midnight of the due date or the student will receive no credit for the submission.

Likewise, students will need to respond to the postings of other students. **Each student should provide at least two other postings to their fellow class members if they expect to gain full credit for the week.**

Students will only have 7 days to respond to the questions or issues presented.

Students will not be allowed to progress ahead of the class schedule with weekly assignments. Also, there will be no exceptions to the timely completion of the weekly Discussion Board assignments.

Considerations for grades will include but are not limited to the number of initiated discussions, the number of responses, timeliness, appropriateness, contribution value, and accuracy. Students that log on and respond to a question or topic but have clearly not read the assigned material will receive the lowest number of points possible.

Students that log on, participate actively, and have clearly read the material may receive the highest grade possible. Average work will receive the median point value.

3) Examinations: There will be 2 exams, which will be composed of 100 multiple choice or true/false questions. Each exam will be conducted online. Each student has to take and finish within the timeline requirement. **Due to the flexibility regarding the time to take the exams, make up exams will not be allowed.** Mid-term grades will be posted on-line for students to view via Arrow. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance.

4 Paper: Students are required to write a 10 – 15 page research paper (not include title, abstract, and references page) on an important ethical subject where they develop and ethics policy. In essence, you have the opportunity to solve an ethical dilemma on a grand scale. Students should identify an ethical topic they are interested in studying and create a policy and/or a recommendation to a state governing agency about how this ethical issue should be handled moving forward. Your choices should be fueled by empirical research and scholarly sources on the subject. Students are required to follow the American Psychological Association Writing Guidelines which are most comprehensively covered in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th. Ed.*, although condensed and simplified versions of the APA formatting a referencing requirements may be found on-line and in other writing manuals.

Term Paper Grading:

Item	Percent
Organization, including use of APA format	20%
Use of Outside References, including quality and quantity	20%
Topic, consisting of both the report on the chosen ethical dilemma and student demonstration of points germane to this course	20%
Comprehensiveness, thorough and in-depth coverage	20%
Writing Style, subjective assessment by the instructor	20%

Course Grade:

Topic	Point
Introduction	10 points
Forum	140 points
Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Paper	100 points
Total	450 points

Grading:

Grades are figured as follows:

Grade	Percent
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and unethical practices will be handled according to university policy.

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Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [disability support services website](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog

Student Services:

Students who need special services should contact the instructor directly or visit [student support services website](#).

Class policies and Procedures:

Other class policies and procedures follow the [MWSU Student Policy Manual & Organizational Handbook](#).

Tentative Course Schedule due date:

Month	Date	Topic
August	24	Introduction
	30	Chapter 1: Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
		Introduction forum
September	6	Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior
	13	Chapter 3: Justice and Law
	20	Chapter 4: Becoming an Ethical Professional
	27	Chapter 5: The Police Role in Society
October	4	Chapter 6: Police Discretion and Dilemmas
	11	Chapter 7: Police Corruption and Misconduct
		Mid-term Exam
	18	Chapter 8: Law and Legal Professionals
	25	Chapter 9: Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
November	1	Chapter 10: Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
	8	Chapter 11: The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
	15	Chapter 12: Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
		Research Paper
	22	Chapter 13: Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
December	6	Chapter 14: Making Ethical Choices
		Final Exam

The instructor reserves the right to adjust and change the syllabus and course schedule as needed.