CRJS 4983 Ethical Decision Making in Criminal Justice (Spring 2019)

Instructor: Karina Rodriguez, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Section/CRN: P01-Sec. # 26441
Office Location: Don Clark Bldg., 351
Office Phone: 936-261-5227
Email kkrodriguez@pvamu.edu

Office Hours:
M: 10-11am
T/TR: 10-11am and 12:20pm – 1:20pm
W/F: 9-11am
(Other times by appointment)

Mode of Instruction: Face to Face

Course Location: Don Clark Bldg., Room, 240
Class Days & Time M/W: 2:00 p.m.-3:20 p.m.

Catalog Description: (3-0) Credit 3 semester hours.
An overview of ethical theories, concepts, and issues. Illustrates the major unethical themes common in Criminal Justice management. Illustrates ethical dilemmas in policing, courts, prisons, community corrections, and crime prevention. The class works together to develop foundational ethical truths upon which to logically develop the practice of moral decision-making.

Prerequisites: THEA complete
Co-requisites: None

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5,6 Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 Empirical and Quantitative Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,3,4 Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6 Critical Thinking and Social Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,3,4,6 Critical Thinking and Communication</td>
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</tbody>
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Major Course Requirements and Method of Determining Final Course Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.Class Participation</td>
<td>70 pts.</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.Group Project</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.Reaction Papers (4)</td>
<td>40 pts.</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.Exam 1</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.Exam 2</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.Final Exam</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Quiz (2)</td>
<td>60 pts (30 points each)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADING CRITERIA AND CONVERSION:

A= 620-670
B= 569-619
C= 518-568
D= 467-517
F= 466 or below
Detailed Description of Major Assignments:
Assignment Title or Grade Requirement

Description

Attendance/Participation:

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Class meetings may involve large and/or small group discussions or special projects. Participation in class discussions and/or special projects will be worth **70 points of your overall grade**. E-mail me why you missed class and/or show me proof verification why you missed class. Note, you are expected to verbally participate in class discussions, as this will also be part of your participation grade.

Group Project

A group project will be an important part of your final grade. Students will be assigned to groups randomly by the professor. Along with your group, you will create a 25-minute power-point presentation. The group is to choose an issue/problem that clearly suggests ethical considerations in our criminal justice system. Your choice should reflect your interests, but needs to be something that's been covered enough to give you material to analyze. Your presentation should address the following:

Reflection Assignment:

As college students, writing papers will become part of your agenda. Accordingly, 4 short-length reaction papers will be required in this course on the dates assigned below. Specifically, students are to write a 2-page reaction paper, **not to exceed 2 pages**, on the chapter/s assigned. The cover page is NOT part of the 2 page limit. Include your thoughts/opinion on the specific chapter for that week, to include, critical points addressed in the chapter and raise arguments made by the author. **DO NOT TELL ME WHAT THE CHAPTER IS ABOUT**. It is important that you raise important arguments or raise important points presented by the author and elaborate on those specific points. **There will be a total of 4 reaction papers** this semester which must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font and in Times New Roman. Please include your name, reaction paper #, and the chapter on your cover page. Staple your assignments. All weekly reaction papers must be turned in **ON TIME** and at the beginning of each class in order to receive full credit. I do not accept late reaction papers or papers after class is over. If you will not be in class, submit your reaction papers through e-mail on the same day they are due in order to receive credit. No exceptions.

Quizzes

Quizzes (2) will be designed to measure knowledge of presented course material. Students will be provided with a journal article related to corrections and will be further tested on the specific journal article. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class.
Examinations: There will be 2 examinations not to include the final exam. The first examination is worth 100 points of your final grade; the second exam is also worth 100 points of your final grade. Exams will be based on the text information, and any other materials provided during the semester. I will provide you with an exam review. Your exam will consist of multiple choice/ true false questions. I will also provide the opportunity for extra credit on your exams. Students will be allowed to make-up an exam ONLY under extreme circumstances and with proof verification. Final exam will be comprehensive.

Readings: It is advisable for students to follow the schedule of reading assignments as set out in the Semester Calendar. Students should complete the reading assignments before coming to class. Apart from facilitating class discussion, this will allow you time to formulate questions for presentation in class. In addition, I will e-mail you, if possible, the chapter power points prior to class.

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

Taskstream
Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. At least one of your assignments is REQUIRED to be submitted as an "artifact,” an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

EXTRA CREDIT:
This may be given during the semester at the instructor’s discretion. If an extra credit is given, it will be available to every student in the class who qualifies for it.

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms.

Students are expected to verbally participate in class discussions. You will receive a participation grade in my class; therefore, you are expected to participate in the review of weekly topics/assignments. We all have and are entitled to diverse opinions and critiques of a specific topic, however, such will be voiced in my class in a professional manner and respecting other student’s views and opinions.
In addition, private discussions in my class are not encouraged as well as passing notes, reading newspapers, disruptive eating, sleeping, or text messaging. If you demonstrate such behavior you will be warned in class to cease or leave the class. If you persist in disruptive or distracting behavior, formal action, in accordance with Prairie View A&M policy, will be taken.

We all have lives outside of class, and this includes myself, therefore, I encourage you to notify me prior to the commencement of class if you have to leave early or are awaiting an important phone call.

**Semester Calendar**

**Week One:** 1/14-1/18
- M: Introduction to course, syllabus review, text review
- Topic Description: W: Ch.1
- Assignment: Read Ch. 1-3

**Week Two:** 1/21-1/25
- Topic Description: M: Ch. 2
- W: Ch. 3
- Assignment: Read Ch. 4-5

**Week Three:** 1/28-2/1
- Topic Description: M: Ch.4
- W: Ch. 5
- Assignment: Read Ch. 6-7

**Week Four:** 2/4-2/8
- Topic Description: M: Ch. 6
- W: Ch. 7
- Assignment: **2/6: Reaction paper #1 due on chapter 4**

**Week Five:** 2/11-2/15
- Topic Description: M: Ch. 8 and Quiz 1 over Ch. 8
- W: Ch. 9
- Assignment: **2/13: Reaction paper #2 due on chapter 5**

**Week Six:** 2/18-2/22
- Topic Description: M: Ch. 10
- W: Ch. 11
- Assignment: **2/20: Reaction paper #3 due on chapter 6 and Exam 1 on chapters 2-6**
Week Seven: 2/25-3/1
Topic Description: M: Ch. 12
W: Cont. Ch. 12
Assignment: 2/27: Reaction paper #4 due on chapter 12

Week Eight: 3/4-3/8
Topic Description: M: Ch. 13
W: Cont. Ch. 13 and Quiz 2 over Ch. 13
Assignment: None

Week Nine: SPRING BREAK 3/11-16 NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Week Ten: 3/18-3/22
Topic Description: M: Ch. 14
W: Cont. Ch. 14
Assignment: Readings

Week Eleven: 3/25-3/29
Topic Description: M: Group Meet
W: Group Meet
Assignment: 

Week Twelve: 4/1-4/5
Topic Description: M: Group 1 Project Presentation
W: Group 2 Project Presentation
Assignment: 

Week Thirteen: 4/8-4/12
Topic Description: M: 4/8: Exam #2 Ch. 7-11
W: Group 3 Project Presentation
Assignment: 

Week: Fourteen: 4/15-4/17
Topic Description: M: Group 4 Project Presentation
W: Group 5 Project Presentation
Assignment: 

Week Fifteen: 4/22-4/26
Topic Description: M: Group 6 Project Presentation
W: Final Exam Review and our last class day
Assignment: 

Final Exam: Comprehensive
Date: TBA
**Student Support and Success**

**John B. Coleman Library**

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty.  
https://www.pvamu.edu/library/ Phone: 936-261-1500

**The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)**

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561.

**The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)**

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

**Writing Center**

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

**Student Counseling Services**

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

**Testing**

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for
pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services
As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs
Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement
The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services
Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability
requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

**Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

**Forms of Academic Dishonesty:**
1. **Cheating**: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. **Academic misconduct**: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. **Fabrication**: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. **Plagiarism**: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

**Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)**
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under non-academic procedures.

**Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Title IX Statement**
Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexis Boyd, PVAMU’s
Interim Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2166 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

**Department Policy on Mobile Devices and Technology**

It is imperative that instructors be afforded reasonable authority to manage the classroom learning environment. An important component of management of the classroom environment is control of topic and pedagogical method. Empirical data shows that student use of mobile devices and other forms of technology that are not approved by the instructor for the educational endeavor of interest serve as distracters to student attention. When students attempt to divide their time between paying attention to the classroom topic and/or pedagogical method used by the instructor and the use of a mobile device, the student may miss important course content or details. Certain use of mobile devices or technology by a student may also serve as a substantial distraction to other students enrolled in the course.

The instructor of record may and is encouraged to further elaborate his or her own course-specific mobile device policies in writing in the course syllabus. It is the policy of the Department of Justice Studies that during closed book examinations no mobile device or other form of technology be placed in the student's work area, visible to the student. Consequently, cell phone use during exams in this class is strictly prohibited. Having any electronic device on and visible during a closed book examination will lead to an assumption of cheating and an “F” for the test. However, if there is an urgent need to use a cell phone during any class period not scheduled for testing, you are advised to do so outside (and not inside) the class to limit distractions.

**Food and Drinks:**
No food or drinks are allowed in class per building policy.

**Formatting Documents:**
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich Text, or plain text format.

**Exam Policy**
Exams should be taken as scheduled. Make up exams will be allowed under extreme circumstance and with written proof.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students’ rests with the faculty. However,
in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**
- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or IPad/Tablet with WiFi
- High speed internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15” monitor, 800 x 600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/ speakers
- Keyboard and mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

**Note:** Be sure to enable Java & pop ups

**Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:**
- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft (or a program comparable or convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):**
Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to others in any online communication. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

**Technical Support:**
Students should go to [https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/](https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/) if there are any password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the **Office of Distance Learning at 936.261.3283.**

**Communication Expectations and Standards:**
Emails will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent email messages should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.