



Course CRIM 3301.5e1 – Theories of Justice
Professor Ivan G. Birch, M.A.
Term Spring 2013
Meetings Tuesday: 7:00-9:45 pm

Professor's Contact Information

Office Location GR 2.510
Email Address Ivan.birch@utdallas.edu
Office Hours Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am and by email or appointment

Course Description

Survey of the basic theoretical rationales and perspectives concerning the concept of justice with selected readings from classical and contemporary theorists.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic moral philosophy and ethics, particularly how they pertain to issues in the field of criminal justice. We will examine different ethical systems and explore several questions such as: What is a crime? What is justice? In addition, we will examine professional ethics for law enforcement, the courtroom, corrections, and criminal justice researchers. The goal of this class is to expose students to a variety of thought concerning ethical behavior with a heavy emphasis on ethical dilemmas faced by individuals working in the criminal justice system. The goal is not to present one unified ethical system. This class will be conducted using a discussion format so students will learn to identify, articulate and defend different ethical positions.

Required Textbook and Materials

Braswell, Michael C., Belinda R. McCarthy and Bernard J. McCarthy
2012. Justice, Crime, and Ethics. Seventh Edition. Anderson Publishing

Note: In addition to the required text, handouts, journal articles, video documentaries, movies, and other sources of reference *may* be used to further enhance student's learning.

Course Requirements

Exams. There will be three (3) in-class exams this semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Makeup Exam Policy

Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a university recognized excused absence. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illnesses with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences), participation in official university activities. The final decision to excuse absences is left to the discretion of the professor. In most instances, students will be required to provide written documentation for your absence. In addition, you **MUST** talk with an instructor prior to the date of the exam in order to schedule a makeup.

Assignments. Two assignments will be expected of students. Time and the content covered will determine the exact nature of these assignments, but these are meant to benefit the student's grade. One of these assignments will be a debate in which students take a position and argue a certain ethical point of view. This assignment should be both fun and intellectually stimulating, but this will be totally dependent on the commitment and preparedness of the students.

Attendance. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. In order to ensure participation on these days in particular, class attendance will be taken. Attendance will count approximately 10% of the final grade for the class. Attendance will be taken by means of an attendance sheet that will be passed around at the beginning of class. Each student will be responsible for signing the attendance roster and should NOT sign-in a friend who is not in class. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether you're in class or not. Therefore, it is advised that you make a friend in class who would be willing to share class notes with you and you with them.

Note: I do NOT hand out my class notes nor do I post notes/PowerPoint slides.

Grading Criteria

Students are encouraged to maintain a record of their grades.

Note: I will NOT curve nor barter your grade at the end of the semester.

Final Grades Your earned points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A+	98-100%
A	93-97%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D+	68-69%
D	63-67%
D-	60-62%
F	<59%

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Academic Calendar (This schedule is flexible and subject to change)

DATE

TOPIC

READING

1/15- 2/19

Introduction and ethical issues in Policing

Exam 2/19

Chapters 1-7

2/26-4/2

Ethics and the Courts

Exam 4/2

Chapters 8-12

4/9-4/30

Ethical Issues in Corrections.

FINAL – May 7: 8:00 pm-10:45 pm Location CHEC 222

Chapters 13-16