

## COURSE SYLLABUS

GVPT339E – TOPICS IN PUBLIC LAW: LAW, POLITICS, AND ETHICS

Monday: 9:30-12:15

Room: Building III- Room 3226

Professor Kira M. Antell

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: kantell@crim.umd.edu

### Course Overview:

This course examines the moral principles and ethical codes that guide policy makers, attorneys, and criminal justice professionals. Students will read sophisticated moral arguments with application to concrete policy decisions. We will read and discuss case studies that present examples of political actors, attorneys, and criminal justice professionals facing complex ethical issues. We will often turn to topical studies and take advantage of current news stories as an opportunity to explore moral mistakes and triumphs in modern life.

### Reading Materials:

- Gutman, A. & Thompson, D. (2006). *Ethics & Politics: Cases & Comments*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. (Ethics & Politics)
- Pollock, J.M. (2007). *Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. (Ethical Dilemmas)

### Grading:

- Class participation 10%
- Response papers 20%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Group Project (written and oral components) 20%
- Take Home Final Exam 25%

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
<60	60-63	64-66	67-69	70-73	74-76	77-79	80-83	84-85	87-89	90-93	94-100	Instructor's Discretion

### Class Participation:

You are expected to read for every class and be prepared each day to participate. You will earn 2 points for each class in which you have meaningfully participated up to a total of 10 points that will count towards your final participation grade. **You can also earn up to 4 more extra credit participation points by participating on a day in which you are not on call.** I am hopeful that everyone will volunteer their opinions and be active participants in class discussions. In order to ensure this participation you will have certain days that you are “on call” and may be called on to answer questions even if you do not volunteer. If you are unable to answer a question or do not participate on your on call day (or appear unprepared or have an unexcused absence making it impossible for you to participate) on a single occasion you will not receive a deduction, however, if you are not prepared on more than one occasion you will have 2 points deducted for each day that you are unprepared while on call and are not absent due to an excused absence. Thus you can both earn and lose points towards your participation grade.\*

### ResponsePapers:

Each student will be assigned 3 response papers to prepare throughout the semester. The papers must be typed, with a standard font and standard margins, and should be formatted as described in more detail in class. Response papers submitted more than 10 minutes after the start of class will be considered late and be reduced by 3 points for each day the assignment is late and assignments will not be accepted more than 2 days late.

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\* For example, if at the end of the semester you have participated in 3 classes and earned 6 participation points but have been unprepared two times when called on, you will have 2 points deducted and your total participation grade will be 4.

Each response paper is worth 10 points but only your best two response papers will count towards the case brief grade. All students must complete the first response paper and students are strongly encouraged to complete all three. *This is an independent assignment and you are not permitted to work with other students in preparing your response papers.*

#### Group Project:

Your group will choose a news story dealing with ethical issues. You may choose a regional or national story involving any aspect of politics, legal ethics, or the criminal justice system. I will expect you to present the story as a case study via a PowerPoint display and lead the class in a conversation and discussion of the topic. I will discuss the group project in greater detail as the semester progresses but note that your contribution to the group will be assessed by all members and that assessment will form part of your grade for the project. Students will receive individual grades for the group project.

#### Exams:

There are two exams. The exams are worth 25% each. The midterm exam will be an in-class closed book essay exam and the final exam is a take-home open book exam. They are not cumulative. Exams will cover the texts, class notes, and any additional readings that we discuss in class. In the final exam, students will explore the moral considerations surrounding a particular policy area in detail.

#### Class Policies:

- Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class as participation is assessed for each class.
- Missed Deadlines/Late Assignments: Extensions for papers or presentations will not be given except in cases of a medical or family emergency with documentation and advance notice prior to the due date if at all possible.
- Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will not be given except in cases of a verifiable medical or family emergency or other valid excuse per the University where I have been notified PRIOR to the exam if at all possible.
- Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, incomplete or lack of citations, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council immediately.
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you require appropriate accommodations for a documented disability, please speak with me as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements, and certainly by October 1, 2007.
- Code of Conduct: Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.
- Center for Academic Success (CAS): CAS offers academic assistance for students attending classes at the Shady Grove Center. CAS provides assistance in person or by phone for writing assignments, it offers Guided Study Sessions (GSS), workshops, sessions with academic trainers, and can help you find a tutor. Please visit [www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas](http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas).

**Class Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>On Call Groups</u>
9/3	NO CLASS-HOLIDAY	
	<u>Part I: Introduction to Ethics</u>	
9/10	Introduction to Ethics <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch. 1</i>	
9/17	Introduction to Ethics <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.2, 3</i>	1,2,3
	<u>Part II: Legal Professionals</u>	
9/24	Lawyers <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.10</i> <i>Duke Prosecutor Case Study Materials (Blackboard)</i>	4,5,6
10/1	Judges Guest Speaker: Richard A. Finci, Esq., Managing Partner, Houlon, Berman, Bergman, Finci & Levenstein, LLC <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.11</i> <i>Judicial Case Study Materials TBD (Blackboard)</i>	1,3,5
10/8	Video-Sworn to Silence Group Project <u>Assignment</u> <i>No reading assignment</i>	
	<u>Part II: Criminal Justice Professionals</u>	
10/15	Law enforcement • <b>Response Paper #1 due by email by 9:30AM</b> <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.6, 7</i> <i>Police Case Study Materials (Blackboard)</i>	2,4,6
10/22	Law enforcement Guest Speaker: Police Officer Darryl Marshall, Montgomery County Police Department <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.8, 9</i> <i>Coerced Confessions Case Study Materials (Blackboard)</i>	1,4,6
	Note* Corrections will be covered on 11/26	
<b>10/29</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	

Part III: Politics

11/5	Privacy of Officials • <b>Response Paper #2 due at the start of class</b> <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethics &amp; Politics-ch.3</i> Note: 11/7 is the last day to drop class with a “W”	2,3,5
11/12	Manipulation <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethics &amp; Politics-ch.4</i> <i>Political Case Study TBD (Blackboard)</i>	1,2,3
11/19	Official Disobedience <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethics &amp; Politics-ch.5</i>	4,5,6
11/26	Part II: Criminal Justice Professionals (continued) Corrections Guest Speaker: Arthur Wallenstein, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation <u>Assignment</u> <i>Ethical Dilemmas-ch.12,13</i> <i>Corrections Case Studies TBD</i>	1,3,5
12/3	Politics and the Law <u>Assignment</u> <i>Alberto Gonzalez Case Study Materials (Blackboard)</i>	2,4,6
12/10	<b>Group Presentations</b> • <b>Response Paper #3 due at the start of class</b> • Final exam posted on Blackboard (due by 10:30AM on 12/17/2007)	
12/17	<b>Final Exam</b> • <b>Due by 10:30AM</b>	

**NOTE: This schedule is subject to change at instructor’s discretion.**

### On Call Groups\*

Last Name	Group
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6

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\* If your name is not listed in the on call groups, tell me immediately so you can be assigned to a group.

