Criminal Justice Department
Behavioral Science Division

Seminar in Current Issues
CRIM 4603
Spring 2009

Professor: Prof. Todd C. Hiestand
Email: tchiestand@mnu.edu
Office Location: Metz 207
Office Hours: MT 1:00pm-3:00pm and by appointment

Course Credit: 3 Hours
Class Day/Time: TR 10:45am-12:00pm
Class Location: Metz 227
Office Phone: (913) 971-3611

TEXTS


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine fundamental issues, which have traditionally confronted the justice system. Prevailing trends as well as future policies regarding crime and justice will be investigated. Topics may include but not be limited to: Ideals and Realities of Criminal Justice, Social Construction of Street Gangs, White Collar Crime, Crime and Justice in the 22nd Century, Understanding Violence and Victimization, Drugs and Crime, Sexual Assault, Organized Crime, Terrorism Today, and Ethics in Criminal Justice. Spring.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Topic Reaction Papers. Over the course of the semester students must prepare five topic reaction papers. Each paper will consist of a thorough reaction to a topic covered in class and will be due the first day a particular topic is discussed.

These papers will be completed on the schedule that will be distributed during the first week of class. Each paper must be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font and more than two pages and less than three. These papers will require a significant amount of reasoning and independent thought. These papers are worth 20 points each and must be delivered into the BlackBoard digital dropbox.

Current Issue Papers. Students must prepare five current issue papers. Each paper will consist of a reaction of a current event in criminal justice and a recent article discussing the event. A sign-up sheet will be passed out for the due dates of the current issue papers. Each paper will be more than one page and less than two and is worth 10 points each. A copy of the article and the written paper must be delivered in hard copy format at the beginning of class.
**Mythology Discussion Leader.** Each student will lead a thirty minute discussion on one chapter of the Kappeler & Potter text. The discussion will be worth 50 points. Schedules will be determined during the first week of class.

**Book Review.** Each student must select and read a book pertaining to the criminal justice field and write a more than two pages less than 3 pages review. The review must include independent student thought. The book must be selected and approved by the professor by January 27th. The book review is due April 14th and must be delivered to the BlackBoard digital dropbox by the beginning of class. This assignment is worth 50 points.

**Final Paper.** Each student must prepare a 15 to 20 page paper discussing a current topic worth 150 points. This topic will be the same as the final presentation topic chosen by the student. This paper must be in APA format and is due April 21st at 10:45am. This paper will be delivered into “Safe Assign” on BlackBoard. Each student must prepare an outline and references page due January 22nd. The outline and references page is worth 25 points. Each student must turn in two completed drafts. The first draft is due February 5th and the second is due March 26th. Each draft is worth 25 points. Bring a copy of your draft to class. During class we will trade drafts to be reviewed by classmates. Your reviews of classmates work is worth 25 points for each draft. This project is worth 275 total points.

**Final Class Presentation.** Each student will deliver a thirty minute presentation. This presentation must include an overview of the topic area and adequately represent both sides of the issue. Creativity and clarity of presentation will be emphasized. Each student will be graded by the professor and the class. This presentation will be worth 100 points.

**Class Participation.** Seminar in Current Issues is a capstone course for senior level students. As a seminar, this class will be driven by student discussion. Students are expected to engage the professor and other students in the critical exploration of class concepts as well as the sharing of independent thought. In order to attain this goal, students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Class participation is evaluated by the professor and will be worth a total of 50 points. If a student is not prepared to discuss the pertinent material they will be asked to leave the class and will be counted absent for the day.

**GRADING SYSTEM**

- 100 Points for Topic Reaction Papers (5 x 20)
- 50 Points for Current Issue Papers (5 x 10)
- 50 Points for Mythology Discussion Leader
- 50 Points for Book Review
- 150 Points for Final Paper
- 25 Points for Final Paper Outline and References
- 50 Points for Final Paper Drafts (2 x 25)
- 50 Points for Review of Classmate’s Drafts (2x 25)
- 100 Points for Class Presentation
- 50 Points for Class Participation

675 Total Points Possible
A+ 655 – 675 Points
A 627 – 654 Points
A- 607 – 626 Points
B+ 587 – 606 Points
B 560 – 586 Points
B- 540 – 559 Points
C+ 519 – 539 Points
C 492 – 518 Points
C- 472 – 491 Points
D+ 452 – 471 Points
D 425 – 451 Points
D- 405 – 424 Points
F 404 Points or Less

ATTENDANCE POLICY (see MNU Catalog, page 28)

For every unexcused absence, beginning with the third, the student’s final grade will be reduced by 15 points. For purposes of this attendance policy only, students who are more than 15 minutes late for a given class period will be counted as absent for that class period. Excused absences consist of serious illness or participation in university sponsored events. Whether an absence is deemed excused or unexcused rests solely upon the discretion of the professor.

Students with perfect attendance will receive a 15 point increase in their final grade. For example, a student with 575 points (B) at the end of the semester with perfect attendance will have his or her grade raised by 15 points. As a result, the student’s grade will be raised from a B to a B+. For purposes of the perfect attendance bonus only, all absences are considered unexcused.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class or that assignment will be deemed as late. Each late assignment will be reduced by 10 points per day the assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due on Tuesday morning and the student turns in the assignment after the class period begins but before 5pm, that student’s grade on the assignment will be reduced by 10 points. If the student turns the assignment in after 5pm or on the following Wednesday, the grade will be reduced by 20 points. If assignments are emailed to the professor, they will be erased and not graded.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work is expected to be the student’s own. No credit will be given for assignments or exams that have been plagiarized. Cheating and other dishonest behavior will result in an F for the assignment and will be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

CITIZENSHIP

Students are expected to display appropriate levels of respect and courtesy. This includes turning off cell phones. If a cell phone rings during class, the student will lose points. Students are not allowed to surf the internet or use a cell phone for text messaging while in class. If a student uses a computer for purposes other than note-taking or engages in text messaging during class, the student will lose points. The professor reserves the right to ask students violating this policy to leave class. If this occurs, the student will be deemed as absent.
SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing special accommodation should notify the professor within the first two (2) weeks of class.

SIGNIFICANT DATES (TENTATIVE)

1/22  Outline and Sources Due
1/27  Book Selection Due
2/5   Draft 1 Due
3/26  Draft 2 Due
4/14  Book Review Due
4/21  Final Paper Due
4/23  Presentations Begin
4/28  Presentations Continue
4/30  Presentations Continue 8am-9:50am
Alignment of Mission, Objectives, and Outcomes

MidAmerica Nazarene University

Term: Spring 2008
Class: Seminar in Current Issues
Dept #: CRIM 4603
CRN: 50037
Professor: Todd Hiestand
Means of Assessment: APA Writing Style on the Final Paper

University Mission Statement:
The University provides a wide variety of intellectual, social, and religious activities that serve a developmental function in students. The ultimate goal is to develop broadly educated individuals with specific skill and career knowledge related to a potential field of work.

Related Division Mission:
The Division of Behavioral Sciences educates and develops students to be competent in academic disciplines focused on understanding human behavior, mental processes, social functioning and the institutional structures of society.

Course Objectives:
Students are competent to pursue a career and/or graduate studies within a broad range of cultural and institutional contexts.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcome or State Standards:
Students qualify for professional employment or continued study at the graduate level in the field of Criminal Justice.

Means of Assessment:
APA Writing Style on the Final Paper