

CRIMINAL LAW AND EVIDENCE
SOCIOLOGY 318
Moravian College
Fall 2010
Ashley Heiberger, J.D.

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OFFICE HOURS: Office Hours are by appointment

RESOURCES: Joel Samaha, Criminal Justice, 7th edition, Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.
Steven Philips, No Heroes, No Villains, Vintage Books, 1978.
Additional material will be provided throughout the semester.

OVERVIEW and GOALS: This semester, we will study the criminal law. Students will learn what behaviors have been deemed criminal, and understand how our society responds to such conduct. Students will learn how the police carry out their law enforcement function in a free society. Students will understand how allegations of criminal conduct are prosecuted and defended. Students will learn the typical consequences for those found guilty. Students will also become familiar with the rules of evidence and how they frame the investigation and prosecution of criminal acts.

ATTENDANCE: Since each evening class meeting is the equivalent of an entire week of day class meetings, attendance is vital to the learning process. Therefore, students are urged to attend classes regularly. I do not formulaically lower grades based on lack of attendance. However, students are responsible for all material covered in class, not merely what is contained in the required resources, so students who attend class regularly usually perform better on the evaluation instruments.

EVALUATION INSTRUMENTS and GRADING

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Quiz Average (3) | 25% |
| 2. Mid-term examination | 20% |
| 3. Book Review and Presentation | 25% |
| 4. Final examination | 30% |

EVALUATION INSTRUMENT GUIDANCE:

1. Quizzes-The quiz format will be primarily short answer questions, which may include definitions, lists, etc. There will NOT be any true/false or matching questions.
2. Mid-term and Final examinations – The examination format will be primarily essay and short answer questions.

3. The Final examination will contain material covered throughout the entire semester, however, the emphasis will be on material covered after the Mid-term examination.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The College's Academic Honesty policy can be found in the Student Handbook. Students are required to comply with this policy.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

Occasional modifications may be necessary.

- 9-01: Introduction and Opening Discussion
- 9-08: Samaha Chapter 1
No Heroes, No Villains Author's Note – Chapter 4
- 9-15 Samaha Chapter 2
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 5-10
- 9-22 QUIZ Samaha Chapters 1-2, No Heroes, No Villains Author's Note – Ch. 10**
Book Review Selections Deadline
Samaha Chapter 3
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 11-14
- 9-29 Samaha Chapter 4
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 15-17
- 10-06 MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
Samaha Chapters 1-4
No Heroes, No Villains Author's Note – Chapter 17
- 10-13 Samaha Chapter 5
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 18-20
- 10-20 BOOK REVIEW AND PRESENTATIONS**
Samaha Chapter 6
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 21-22
- 10-23 Fall Convocation (Attendance is strongly encouraged.)
- 10-27 Samaha Chapter 7
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 23-24
- 11-03 QUIZ Samaha Chapters 5-7, No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 18-24**
Samaha Chapter 8
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 25-27

- 11-10 Samaha Chapter 9
No Heroes, No Villains Chapter 28
- 11-17 **QUIZ Samaha Chapters 8-9, No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 25-28**
Samaha Chapter 10
No Heroes, No Villains Chapters 29-30
- 11-24 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Recess**
- 12-01 Samaha Chapter 11
No Heroes, No Villains Chapter 31 – Aftermath
- 12-08 Samaha Chapter 12
LAPD Rampart
Closing Discussion

Final examination to be scheduled by the College.

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You will select a non-fiction book about an element of the American criminal justice system, and provide me with the title and author in written form not later than the beginning of class on **September 22**. You have wide latitude regarding your selection, however, I reserve the right to ask you to select another book. For that reason, I encourage you to advise me of your selection as early as possible.

After reading the book, you will prepare a written review, which will be 3-5 full, double-spaced, standard pages. Your review may address any aspect of the book, however, ensure that you address the issues on the list below. I will evaluate the objective quality of your review, not your subjective opinion of the book or author. I will not grade specifically for spelling, grammar, etc, but will lower the grade for reviews which do not generally conform to standard conventions in these areas.

The reviews are due at the beginning of class on **October 20**. During that class meeting, you will present your review to the class. These presentations will last between two and three minutes, and no electronic support will be used. You will tell us the title, author, and primary topic of the book. After providing that information, you may address the issues listed below, or any other areas you found significant. If you do not speak for at least two minutes, the class may ask you questions about the book. If your classmates do not question you, I may do so. Again, I will evaluate the objective quality of your review, not your subjective opinion of the book or author. I realize that some people are more polished at speaking in front of an audience, and I will not lower grades for visible discomfort or "stage fright." However, I will lower grades for presentations which indicate a weak or incomplete grasp of the material.

The List

1. Identifying information-title, author, date of publication
2. What is the author's profession or affiliation, if he or she is not primarily a writer?
3. Why did you choose this book?
4. What is the main premise of the book?
5. How is the main premise addressed (how is the book structured)?
6. Summarize the contents
7. Identify three things you learned from the book.
8. Do you agree with the author's position(s)? Why or why not?
9. Did the book raise or lower your opinion of the criminal justice system? Why?
10. Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?