

Spring 2008

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**PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(CJ 465)**

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30 – 11:00 am, Room A-181

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed with particular emphasis on the study of Ethics, in general, and Criminal Justice Ethics and Professionalism, in particular. While the course does not seek to force a change in the basic beliefs of students or make participants more (or less) radical, the objectives of this course will be to learn: (a) the various theories of ethics and professionalism in order to enable them to: (b) examine their role as criminal justice agents, (c) apply these theories intelligently to criminal justice situations, (d) develop a sense of fairness and dignity on the job; and (e) be aware of the causes that could lead to corruption. A considerable segment of ethical theory will be presented in the first half of the course. This will be followed by applied ethics in the areas of police, prisons, and probation/parole.

This course is writing enhanced and will require three writing assignments.

Required Books

Ethics in Criminal Justice: In Search of the Truth, Souryal, 4th edition, Anderson Publishers, 2007.

SYLLABUS

The Week of:
Thursday

Topic

Required Reading

January 15

Introduction to the Ethics Course
What it Means to be Ethical
Sources of Studying Ethics
The Imperative of Philosophy
The Imperative of Justice
The Relevance of Ethics
The Role of Ethics in Society
The Need for Studying Ethics
in Criminal Justice

Souryal, Ch.1
Handouts

January 22	<p><i>Acquainting Yourself with Ethics:</i></p> <p>The art of Reasoning Intellect and Truth Nature of Reality Definitions of Morality Ethics of Relativism Ethics of Radicalism Situational Ethics Determining Goodness The Art of Moral Reasoning $E = PJ^2$</p> <hr/>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 1 – Ch 2</u> <u>Handouts</u></p>
January 29	<p><i>Sources and Sanctions</i></p> <p>Ethics of Utilitarianism Actions and Consequences Determinism Theory Profile of the Ethical Person The Philosophy of Wisdom Fallacious Reasoning Scope of Ethics Categories of Ethical Theory Origins of Ethical Principles</p> <hr/>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 3</u> <u>Handouts</u> <u>First writing assignment</u></p>
February 5	<p><i>Understanding Criminal Justice Ethics</i></p> <p>Natural Law The Hierarchical Rule of Identities Religious Testaments Constitutional Law and Provisions Ethics of Law Professional Codes of Ethics</p> <hr/>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 4</u> <u>Handouts</u></p>
February 12	<p><i>The Masters of Ethical Theory</i></p> <p>The Stoicism School The Hedonistic School The Virtue School The Religious School Applications to CJ Theory & Practice</p>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 4</u> <u>Handouts</u></p>

February 19	<p><i>Ethics of the Naturalistic School</i></p> <p>Ethics of Utilitarianism Ethics of Duty & Reason Ethics of Social Justice Applications to CJ Theory & Practice</p>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 4</u> <u>Handouts</u> <u>Second writing assignment</u></p>
<u>First-Mid Term Exam</u>		
February 26	<p><i>The Ambivalent Reality:</i></p> <p>Unethical Themes in Criminal Justice Management Lying and Deception Institutional Lying When Lying Can Be Justified Lying in Police/Probation Prisons</p>	<p>Souryal, Ch 5 & 6 <u>Handouts</u></p>
March 4	<p><i>The Ambivalent Reality</i></p> <p>Egoism and the Abuse Authority in CJ Types of Egoism Hobbesian Egoism Altruistic Egoism Authority and Power in CJ Limits of Power Ethics of Means and Ends</p>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 7 & 8</u> and <u>Handouts</u></p>
March 11	<u>Spring Break</u>	
March 18	<p><i>The Ethics of Public Services</i></p> <p>The Dual Ethics of CJ Management Ethics of the Workplace Ethics and Policing The Police Prerogative to Abuse Power Police Corruption Hedonistic and Obligatory Corruption</p>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 9 & 10</u> <u>Handouts</u> <u>Third writing assignment</u></p>
March 25	<p><i>The Ethics of Corrections</i></p> <p>Life for Life Ethics The Morality of Punishment The Moral Justification for Prisons Ethics of Man and Corrections Corruption by Correctional Personnel</p>	<p><u>Souryal, Ch 11</u> <u>Handouts</u></p>
<u>Second-Mid Term Exam</u>		

April 1	<i>Practical Aspects of Ethics</i> Ethics of Probation & Parole Ethics of Community-Based Corrections Ethical Images in Probation & Parole	<u>Souryal, Ch 12</u> <u>Handouts</u>
April 8	<i>What Can Be Done</i> Restoring Ethics Ethical Lessons to Learn Practicing Ethics Teaching Ethics Ethics of Civility	Souryal, Ch 13 <u>Handouts</u>
April 15	Movie: <u>Gandhi</u>	
April 22	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	<u>Class discussion</u>
April 29	Ethical discussion and lessons to be taught	Souryal, Ch 14 <u>Handouts</u>
May 1	Course Review	
<u>Final Exam</u> (will be on the date scheduled by university policy. No excuses will be accepted)		

Grading:

- All three tests will have equal weight, 100 points each.
- Writing assignments, proper behavior, and class participation, 100 points.
- Tests will be multiple choice.
- There will be no make-up exams.
- Tests will not be accumulative and the final exam will not be comprehensive.
- The final grade will be computed on the basis of the total score of the three tests divided by 3 and curved only if necessary in accordance with class performance.

Attendance:

1. Attendance is required. Exam questions will equally reflect materials from the book and from class notes and discussions.
2. Roll will be taken regularly at the end of each session.
3. If a student is absent more than four (4) times regardless of reason or excuse, his/her course grade will be dropped by one letter grade. Any following number of absences will be calculated in the same manner.
4. Failure to sign the attendance roll sheet shall be counted as an absence.

Class Conduct:

1. Other than water, no food or drink will be permitted in the classroom.
2. iPods, pagers, and cellular telephones must be turned off prior to class.
3. Text messaging during class is not permitted.
4. You may use your laptop computer to take notes. Any other use will result in ejection from class.
5. Students shall refrain from reading newspapers or other reading materials or sleeping during class.
6. No student shall leave the classroom, without the instructor's permission, until it is official adjourned.

Test Make-ups:

The mid-term and the final exam can be made-up only if the student's absence was justifiable and approved by the instructor.

Important Notices:

1. Students are required to read their assignments before coming to class and be prepared to discuss the basic concepts and present their arguments.
2. This is a course in Ethics. Everyone (instructor included) will be expected to think ethically, talk ethically, and behave ethically!

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/811006.html>

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>