

CJ 465.04
Professionalism and Ethics in Criminal Justice
Fall, 2007

Professor: Dr. Margo L. Frasier

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Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Classroom: C210

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Other times available by appointment

TEXTBOOK(S): Pollock, Joycelyn M. (2006). Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice, 5th Edition, Thompson Wadsworth Publishing Company.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Description: This course involves the study of theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values and ethics as they pertain to criminal justice. Included will be such topics as police corruption, brutality, and methods of dealing with such practices, as well as the concept of professionalism and professional conduct. See course catalog.

Objectives:

1. Acquaint the student with the important role of ethics in the field of criminal justice.
2. Acquaint the student with the criminological theories that reinforce and evaluate ethical standards in criminal justice.
3. Enable students to discuss the ethical dilemmas that affect criminal justice professionals.

Enable students to identify the ethical standards for professional employment in criminal justice.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Normally, more than six absences will result in a failing grade.

GRADING POLICY AND EXAMINATIONS:

Three examination and two group projects will determine students' grades. The exams will consist of essay questions, multiple choice, and true-false questions. The exams will cover the assigned chapters and the class discussions.

For the group projects, students will be divided into small groups for debates on assigned topics. The group will argue in favor of a topic for one discussion and in opposition of a topic for the second discussion. The groups and assigned topics are listed in the course

schedule. Drawing for groups will occur during the first full week of class. Each exam will be worth 100 points and each group project worth 50 points. Groups projects grades will be based on teamwork, persuasiveness, organization, clarity, and knowledge of material. Grading for completed work is as follows:

360-400 points	A
320-359 points	B
280-319 points	C
240-279 points	D
Below 240	F

Grades will not be “curved”. Grades will be entered on the student’s Blackboard file. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor the accuracy of the grades and absences.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: No make-up examinations will be given unless arrangements have been made prior to the examination date.

ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS

MEETING: (There will be a copy of the powerpoint presentation for the lecture on Blackboard. It is suggested that you print it out three slides to a page and bring it to class with you.)

Aug. 21 Introduction to course; syllabus; Chapter 1, pp. 1-16; Why Study Ethics? and Defining Terms

Aug. 23 Chapter 1, pp. 16-32; Morality and the Law, Morality and Behavior, and Analyzing Ethical Decisions

Aug. 28 Chapter 2, pp. 33-53; Ethical Systems and Deontological and Teleological Ethical Systems and Other Ethical Systems

Aug. 30 Chapter 2, pp. 53-68; Relativism and Absolutism, Situational Ethics, and Resulting Concerns

Group Discussion A

Assume that you are the caretaker of a nursing home during the Katrina hurricane (or any other natural disaster) and you only have enough medicine, food, and water for some, but not all, of your patients. Would it be acceptable to divert the supplies away from those who were terminally ill and very unlikely to survive anyway?

Group 1: For

Group 2: Opposed

Sept. 4 Chapter 3, pp. 69-80; Theories of Moral Development

Sept. 6 Chapter 3, pp. 80-94; Ethics, Behavior, and Criminality and Why Be Ethical?

Group Discussion B

Should someone who has a criminal record be allowed to become an employee of a criminal justice agency?

Group 3: For

Group 4: Opposed

Sept. 11 Chapter 4, pp. 95-108; Origins of the Concept of Justice, Components of Justice, and Distributive Justice

Sept. 13 Chapter 4, pp. 108-124; Corrective Justice

Group Discussion C

Should prostitution be decriminalized?

Group 5: For

Group 6: Opposed

Sept. 18 Chapter 5, pp. 125-143; Paradigms of Law, Justifications of Law, and Criminal and Moral Culpability

Sept. 20 Chapter 5, pp. 143-153; Immoral Laws and the Moral Person and Victims' Rights

Group Discussion D

Are there times that law enforcement should simply look the other way and not enforce the law?

Group 7: For

Group 8: Opposed

Sept. 25 Chapter 5, pp. 153-159; Restorative Justice

Group Discussion E

If you stopped a suspected drunk driver and he turned out to be a very highly decorated fellow officer who had just suffered the loss of his wife after a long painful battle with breast cancer, would you make arrangements to get him safely home or would you arrest him?

Group 9: Arrest

Group 10: Safely home

Sept. 27 Examination #1

Oct. 2 Chapter 6, pp. 161-170; Policy Making in Criminal Justice

Oct. 4 Chapter 6, pp. 170-185; Balancing Law and Justice, The Criminal Justice Professional, and Leadership and Training

Group Discussion F

Remember our highly decorated officer who was driving drunk...well, he has been recommended for termination in accordance with your policy of zero tolerance for criminal offenses. You are the Chief of Police and his case is before you. You have the discretion to terminate him or not terminate him. What do you do?

Group 11: Terminate him

Group 12: Not terminate him

Oct. 9 Chapter 7, pp. 187-205; Crime Fighter or Public Servant, Authority and Power, Formal Ethics for Police officers, and The Police Subculture

Oct. 11 Chapter 7, pp. 205-228; Discretion, Duty, and Discrimination and Crime Fighter and Public Servant?

Group Discussion G

Is it okay for law enforcement to lie to a suspect to get a confession?

Group 13: For

Group 14: Opposed

Oct. 16 Chapter 8, pp. 233-249; Types of Corruption

Oct. 18 Chapter 8, pp. 249-270; Excessive Force, A Worldwide Problem, and Explanations of Deviance

Group Discussion H

Should schools be required to enforce zero tolerance laws?

Group 1: For

Group 8: Opposed

Oct. 23 Chapter 9, pp. 273-294; Investigation and Interrogation

Oct. 25 Chapter 9, pp. 294-315; Loyalty and Whistleblowing and Reducing Corruption

Group Discussion I

You and your long time partner answer a suspicious person call. While searching the abandoned house, you come across approximately \$80,000 in cash. From the condition of the money and the bag it is in, it is clear that this money has been there for decades and it is extremely unlikely that its true owner will be found. What do you do? I

Group 2: Keep it

Group 9: Turn it in

Oct. 30 Examination #2

Nov. 1 Chapter 10, pp. 317-337; Ethical Issues for Legal Professionals and Defense Attorneys

Group Discussion J

You are appointed to represent an accused murderer. He tells you that he did kidnap and rape the victim, but he did not kill her. In fact, he is still holding her in a remote mountain cabin where the police will never find her. What do you do?

Group 3: Tell

Group 10: Not tell

Nov. 6 Chapter 10, pp. 337-355; Ethical Issues for Prosecutors

Group Discussion K

Is it okay to plea bargain with one person who is part of a group that committed a crime to get a conviction against another person who is part of the group?

Group 4: For

Group 11: Opposed

Nov. 8 Chapter 11, pp. 357-384; Justice and Judicial Ethics

Group Discussion L

In deciding what punishment is appropriate, is it alright for the judge to consider whether a sex offender is willing to be castrated?

Group 5: For

Group 12: Opposed

Nov. 13 Chapter 12, pp. 387-404; Rationales for Punishment and Corrections and Ethical Frameworks for Corrections

Nov. 15 Chapter 12, pp. 404-419; Punishment and Private Corrections

Group Discussion M

Is Capital Punishment good public policy?

Group 6: For

Group 13: Opposed

Nov. 20 Catch up day

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving

Nov. 27 Chapter 13, pp. 419-445; Correctional Officers

Nov. 29 Chapter 13, pp. 445-455; Management Issues

Dec. 4 Chapter 14, pp. 457-479; Ethics and Community Corrections

Dec. 6 Chapter 15, pp. 481-502; Ethical Choices and the “War on Terror”

Group Discussion N

Is it alright to torture a terrorist who refuses to disclose a plot that will rival 9/11?

Group 7: For

Group 14: Opposed

Dec. 13 Examination #3 (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. exam)

ACADEMIC HONESTY: The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University’s policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student Guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines)

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:

“Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.” The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720).

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

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

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made within the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.