

**College of Criminal Justice  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CJ 465 W  
PROFESSIONALISM & ETHICS IN CJ**

**SYLLABUS**

**Fall 2007**

**Tue-Th 8:00 am – 9:20 am  
CJC A205**

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**Office Hours: Tue, Thu 9.30:00 – 10.30 AM  
Any other time by appointment.**

**TEXTBOOK(S):**

Braswell et al (2005). Justice, Crime & Ethics. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Lexis-Nexus

\*Supplemental handouts will also be provided throughout the semester when deemed useful in accordance with course objectives.

\*\* Guest speakers will make presentations.

**COMMUNICATION: PLEASE USE THE EMAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED IN SYLLABUS FOR COMMUNICATION.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Professionalism and Ethics in CJ will provide a foundation for the understanding of ethics and its use in CJ professions. Ethical principles have been accepted and applied since ancient times almost in all professions. This course will analyze why, when and how the ethical principles are accepted and applied, what consequences the applications might bring and whether it will be for good of the individual, for the organization and most importantly for the society.

This course will provide terminological knowledge about ethics, and analyze issues concerning CJ organizations as well as the whole society. Past and current cases will be analyzed and discussed with focus on ethical and professional behavior.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To get acquainted with ethical terminology and ethical principles
- To understand how to identify, approach, analyze, and act on work situations with potential ethical, or professional implications,
- To understand that ethical issues can be approached from a variety of issues.
- To understand that the decisions made by CJ professionals might affect the whole society,
- To increase understanding and analyzing skills and develop skills for ethical and professional decision making,
- To enable the students to make well-considered arguments, pro and con, about current events and issues in ethics, professionalism, and the impact of CJ professionals' decisions on society;

IT IS NOT INTENDED IN THIS COURSE TO CHANGE YOUR ETHICAL VALUES BUT TO ANALYZE AND APPLY THOSE VALUES IN COMPLEX CASES FACED IN CJ PROFESSIONS.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

**Midterm:** ( 20% of course grade) 35 multiple choice questions each worth 2 points and 3 short essay questions each worth 10 points will be in the midterm.

**Final Exam:** ( 20% of course grade) 35 multiple choice questions each worth 2 points and 3 short essay questions each worth 10 points will be in the Final exam

**Case Analysis ( 25% of course grade):** In the text book we have 12 CASE STUDIES. We will form teams of two students and every team will be assigned a case on a random basis. Teams will be presenting their respective case in a professional manner, answer the questions at the end of each case and discuss as if they are team teaching an ethics class in the university.

Assume that you are a team of professors or professionals in the field lecturing to an elite group of professionals whose notion of ethics is no more than the average public.

Develop your own style by being imaginative. I expect you to put forth your best effort. Innovative methods and personal styles of presentation are most welcome.

Do not limit yourself to the text! Find interesting material (articles, websites, stories, movies etc.) that is salient to the subject matter. That is, tell us where it fits in the realistic picture of life.

You are to analyze and discuss the case from an ethical perspective, apply the ethical approaches, state and convince the class why you have arrived to the decision you made. Present and discuss it with class members and instructor, have them involved in the presentation. It is expected that you look into the case from different perspectives. Write a two page paper (double space) about the case, your analysis and discussions and send it to instructor one day before the presentation date.

Use of PowerPoint for your presentation is encouraged. E-mail your presentation as early as you can so it can be checked and approved before put on Blackboard.

You will be graded on the basis of:

- How well you absorb the subject matter
- How well you apply the ethical approaches,
- How well you prioritize the important points (or eliminate the junk)
- If the message/information is conveyed correctly and adequately. (Did the class get the point?)
- Your ability to relate the subject matter to the real life.
- Use of outside material (saliency) and how you relate it to the subject matter.
- And equally important is how you did as a team. (Did you present coherently and harmoniously? Or did it look like two members of the team worked separately and speak inharmoniously?)

**TERM PAPER (%25 of course grade):** Students are to select a topic that he/she believes is a problem, taking place in any of the CJ organizations, professions and write a 6 page ( Excluding cover and reference pages, double space, font size 12). It is expected that you present the issue, argue why it is a problem, who are affected by it, the cause and come up with possible solutions. Use of scholarly sources, APA style citation, is required. You are encouraged to make minimum use of internet, except for scholarly electronic sources. Term paper is due November 26<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm by email. The term paper will be presented by each in class, you are not required but are welcome to make use of power point and any other method of presentation you believe will serve your purpose of presentation.

## **GRADING:**

Final grades will be assessed on the basis of the following:

1. %10 Class participation
2. %25 Case study and presentation.
3. %25 Term paper and presentation
4. %20 Midterm exam
5. %20 Final exam

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- **Attendance** (See Academic Policy Statement 800401)

### School policy

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class-work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor. Class absences will be recorded and counted only from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in that specific class.

### My policy

Students will be allowed 3 day ( 6 hours) absence. Each absence in excess of 3 day will reduce the final grade average by 5 points. Students with more than 6 days of absences without justifiable excuse, without prior notification and approval of the instructor (above the allowed 3 absences) will receive a grade of F in the course.

**Electronic devices:** Laptops are welcome to be used for the course purpose, and not surfing or gaming. Cell phones; only in silent mode, and absolutely no text messaging during class hours.

**Make-Up Exams:** An examination should be missed only in the event of illness or other truly extenuating circumstances. The instructor should be informed in advance. A make-up examination will be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

## **SHSU Policy Statements**

**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. “Turn it in” will be used to check for originality of papers.

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

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

**Student Absences on Religious Holiday:** 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 in 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.

<http://www.shsu.edu/katalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holiday>

**Disabled Student Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

For disabled student policy please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/schedule>

For services for disabled students please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

#### **ANNOTATED COURSE OUTLINE:**

Week 1: Aug. 21 Course introduction, discussion of syllabus.

Aug 23 Chp 1: Ethics, Crime, and Justice

Week 2: Aug 28 Chp 2: Utilitarian and Deontological Approaches to CJ Ethics

Aug 30 Chp 3: Peacemaking, Justice, and Ethics

Week 3: Sep 4 Chp 4: Learning Police Ethics

Sep 6 Chp 5: The Ethics of Deceptive Interrogation

Week 4: Sep 11 Chp 6: Ethical Dilemmas in Police Work

Sep 13 Chp 7: Police Ethics, Legal Proselytism, and the Social Order

Week 5: Sep 18 Chp 8: Whatever Happened to Atticus Finch?

Sep 20 Chp 9: Why Prosecutors Misbehave?

Week 6: Sep 25 Chp 10: Criminal Sentencing: Ethical Issues and the Problems of Reform.

Sep 27 Chp 11: Crime and Punishment: Punishment Philosophies and Ethical Dilemmas

Week 7: Oct 2 Chp 12: To Die or Not to Die: Morality, Ethics, and the Death Penalty

Oct 4 Chp 13: Ethical Issues in Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections

Week 8: Oct 9 Midterm review

Oct11 MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9: Oct 16 Chp 14: Responsibility and Restorative Justice  
Oct 18 Chp 15: Keeping an Eye on the Keeper: Prison Corruption and Its Control

Week 10: Oct 23 Chp 16: Ethics and Prison  
Oct 25 Chp 17: Crime, Criminals, and Crime Control Policy Myths

Week 11: Oct 30 Chp 18: The Ford Pinto Case and Beyond: Assessing Blame  
Nov 1 Chp 19: The Corrections Corporation of America: aka The Prison Reality Trust

Week 12: Nov 6 Chp 20: Ethics and Criminal Justice Research  
Nov 8 Chp 21: Research Ethics and Research Funding: A Case Study of Easy virtue

Week 13: Nov 13 Chp 22: The Canary Song: Guantanamo and the War on Terrorism  
Nov 15 No Class ASC Conference

Week 14: Nov 20 Chp 23: Criminal Justice: An Ethic for the Future  
Nov 22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15: Nov 27 TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS  
Nov 29 TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Week 16: Dec 4 TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS  
Dec 6 Final Exam Review

Week 17: Dec: 13 FINAL EXAM