

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CJ 465W - Professionalism and Ethics in Criminal Justice
Fall 2007

Course Syllabus



PROFESSOR: Ken Balusek, J.D.
OFFICE: CJC CL 27
PHONE: Office: 294-3644
Home: 295-2298
EMAIL: kwb001@shsu.edu
CLASS HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00-9:50 a.m., Room A115
OFFICE HOURS: MW 10:00-11:00 AM; TTH 9:30 – 11:00 AM or by appointment

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR:

Office hours are as stated above. I will be available after most classes and by appointment. Email is usually the best way to contact me. You may also contact me by telephone. If I am not available by phone, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Pollock, Joycelyn M. *Ethics in Crime and Justice*. (5th Edition). Thomson/Wadsworth.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This upper level course introduces students to theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values and ethics as they pertain to criminal justice. An emphasis is placed on ethics in law enforcement and corrections practices.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should:

1. Be able to define morality and ethics;
2. Understand how moral and ethical behavior is developed;
3. Understand the concept of justice;
4. Be able to identify ethical dilemmas in law enforcement practices;
5. Be able to identify ethical dilemmas in regards to legal professionals;
6. Be able to identify ethical dilemmas in correctional practices;
7. Be able to analyze ethical dilemmas;
8. Be able to make ethical decisions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Attendance will be taken by passing around a sign-in sheet. Signing the attendance sheet for a fellow student that is not in class will be considered academic dishonesty and will be punished as such. If you are late to a class, inform the professor after class, to make sure you are not counted absent.

Students can miss up to four classes without a penalty. On the fifth absence, the student's final grade will be reduced by one letter grade. On the sixth absence, the student will receive a final grade of "F" for the course. Whether absences are excused or unexcused makes no difference in the calculation of absences.

GRADING POLICIES:

Grades will be based on three exams, including the final exam, and class participation. Each grade will be weighted as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| Exam I | 20% | |
| Exam II | 20% | |
| Final Exam | 20% | |
| Writing Assignments (3) | 30% | (Each writing assignment is worth 10% of final grade) |
| Class Participation | <u>10%</u> | |
| | 100% | |

Exams will consist of essay questions, multiple-choice, true/false and short answer or a combination thereof. The actual make-up of the exam will be decided approximately one week prior to the exam being given.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be three writing assignments during the semester. The specifics of the assignments will be posted on Blackboard or handed out during class. The due date of each assignment is listed in the class schedule below. These papers should be at least 3 pages, but not more than 5 pages, typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman, size 12 font. Points will be deducted if these specifications are not followed. Furthermore, a cover sheet should be attached to the front of the paper with the student's name and assignment number.

All writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. Papers turned in late will be assessed a ten point penalty for each class day the paper is late.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:

No make-up exams will be given unless approval is granted prior to the scheduled exam. Only in the most extreme circumstances will students be allowed to make-up missed exams. It is in the discretion of the instructor to determine which circumstances warrant a make-up exam.

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>

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course will be taught from a lecture/class discussion format. It is imperative that each student contribute to the discussion. All students will have opinions or thoughts about the topics that will be discussed. Students are strongly encouraged to share their opinions and thoughts with the professor and the rest of the class. It has been my experience that when all students participate in the discussion class is more interesting to the students and a more conducive learning environment is created. Remember, class participation does count in your final grade. Furthermore, each of us will be respectful and tolerant of others opinions and thoughts. There will be no tolerance for malicious criticism designed to demean, degrade or intimidate another member of the class.

Tentative Class Schedule
Subject to change!*

| Date | Readings and Lecture Topics | Notes |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Mon. 8-20 | Introduction; Syllabus Review; Class Expectations | First Class Day |
| Wed. 8-22 | Chapter 1: Morality, Ethics and Human Behavior | |
| Fri. 8-24 | Chapter 1: Morality, Ethics and Human Behavior | |
| Mon. 8-27 | Chapter 1: Morality, Ethics and Human Behavior | |
| Wed. 8-29 | Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior | |
| Fri. 8-30 | Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior | |
| Mon. 9-3 | No Class | Labor Day |
| Wed. 9-5 | Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior | |
| Fri. 9-7 | Chapter 2: Determining Moral Behavior | |
| Mon. 9-10 | Chapter 3: Making Ethical Decisions | Writing Assignment 1 Due |
| Wed. 9-12 | Chapter 3: Making Ethical Decisions | |
| Fri. 9-14 | Chapter 3: Making Ethical Decisions | |
| Mon. 9-17 | Chapter 4: The Origins and Concept of Justice | |
| Wed. 9-19 | Chapter 4: The Origins and Concept of Justice | |
| Fri. 9-21 | Chapter 4: The Origins and Concept of Justice | |
| Mon. 9-24 | Exam I | Chapters 1-4 |
| Wed. 9-26 | Chapter 5: Law and the Individual | |
| Fri. 9-27 | Chapter 5: Law and the Individual | |
| Mon. 10-1 | Chapter 5: Law and the Individual | |
| Wed. 10-3 | Chapter 6: Ethics and the Criminal Justice Professional | |
| Fri. 10-5 | Chapter 6: Ethics and the Criminal Justice Professional | |
| Mon. 10-8 | Chapter 6: Ethics and the Criminal Justice Professional | |
| Wed. 10-10 | Chapter 7: The Police Role in Society: Crime Fighter or Public Servant? | |
| Fri. 10-12 | Chapter 7: The Police Role in Society: Crime Fighter or Public Servant? | Writing Assignment 2 Due |
| Mon. 10-15 | TBA | |
| Wed. 10-17 | Chapter 7: The Police Role in Society: Crime Fighter or Public Servant? | |
| Fri. 10-19 | Chapter 7: The Police Role in Society: Crime Fighter or Public Servant? | |
| Mon. 10-22 | Chapter 8: Corruption and the "Code" | |
| Wed. 10-24 | Chapter 8: Corruption and the "Code" | |
| Fri. 10-26 | Chapter 8: Corruption and the "Code" | |
| Mon. 10-29 | Review/Catch-up | |
| Wed. 10-31 | Exam II | Chapters 5-8 |
| Fri. 11-2 | Chapter 9: Noble-Cause Corruption | |
| Mon. 11-5 | Chapter 9: Noble-Cause Corruption | |
| Wed. 11-7 | Chapter 9: Noble-Cause Corruption | |
| Fri. 11-9 | Chapter 10: Ethics and Legal Professionals | |
| Mon. 11-12 | Chapter 11: Justice and Judicial Ethics | |

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| Wed. 11-14 | Chapter 11: Justice and Judicial Ethics | |
| Fri. 11-16 | Chapter 12: The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections | |
| Mon. 11-19 | Chapter 12: The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections | Writing Assignment 3 Due |
| Wed. 11-21 | No Class | Thanksgiving |
| Fri. 11-23 | No Class | Thanksgiving |
| Mon. 11-26 | Chapter 12: The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections | |
| Wed. 11-28 | Chapter 13: Ethics and Institutional Corrections | |
| Fri. 11-30 | Chapter 13: Ethics and Institutional Corrections | |
| Mon. 12-3 | Chapter 13: Ethics and Institutional Corrections | |
| Wed. 12-5 | Chapter 14: Ethics and Community Corrections | |
| Fri. 12-7 | Chapter 15: Ethical Choices and the “War on Terror” | |
| Wed 12-12 8:00 AM- 10:00AM | Final Exam | Chapters 9-15 |

*** Changes will be announced in class!**