

Syllabus
Ethical Dilemmas in Criminal Justice

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the many difficult decisions that criminal justice professionals make in an environment of competing interests. The decision - making of criminal justice professionals is often impacted by their ethical dilemmas. Emphasis is placed on addressing moral issues and concerns of our justice process in personal, social, and criminal justice contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Introduce students to the study of ethics as a necessary component of the Criminal Justice System.
2. Place morality, ethics, and human behavior in context within the CJ system.
3. Analyze ethical dilemmas.
4. Introduce the various ethical systems.
5. Discuss theories of moral development.
6. Introduce the origins and concepts of justice.
7. Examine the paradigms of law and the individual.
8. Discuss ethics and the criminal justice professional.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between morality and ethics.
2. Differentiate between the various ethical systems.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the theories of moral development.
4. Identify the origins and components of justice.
5. Differentiate between the various paradigms of law.
6. Identify noble-cause corruption.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of ethics in the criminal justice professions.

Class Format:

This is a multi-media class participation course that will require active participation by all students. We will combine lecture, research assignments, class discussion, and role playing to enhance our learning experience.

Required Texts:

Enforcing Ethics, Fourth Edition, Goodman, Pearson

Expectations:

Participation in class activities is crucial. Ask questions, make comments, and share your knowledge, insights, and opinions. Everyone's input is valued. You may have that significant axiom that someone else has been waiting to hear.

Note taking:

Lectures and guest speakers will provide information that will not be in a text book. Note taking is strongly recommended and will assist in student evaluation.

Assessment:

Class Discussion (10%):

You will receive up to 2 points per day for participating in class discussion. If you are absent you cannot receive the points designated for discussion.

In-Class Discussion Groups 25%:

Students will be divided into discussion groups early in the quarter. One student in her/his group will lead a group discussion once during the quarter. You will sign up in advance for your "discussion leader" day. On the day you lead a group discussion, you will be responsible for formulating questions and stimulating a discussion on a topic we discuss during that week. You will also be responsible for a written summary of your group's evaluation of the critical issues you discuss. Group discussion leaders earn 20 points for leading the discussion, and other group members earn 5 points for attending and participating in each discussion. Missed discussion day's points cannot be made up.

Homework/assigned reading (15%)

Assessment Evaluation (25%): Assessment evaluations will be given randomly throughout the quarter. They will be announced in advance and cover the assigned readings and the material presented in preceding class periods. These evaluations are designed to keep you up to date in the class and encourage critical thinking and classroom participation. If an evaluation is missed, you will not be able to make it up.

Group & Individual Activities, Research, & Exercises (25%): We learn best by doing. You will be involved in activities and exercises that will encourage you to test your communication skill and get feedback from your peers. Push your comfort zone.

Late Work: Late work will only be accepted one day after the due date at which time 50% of the earned score will be subtracted.

Grades will be based on a point system: A 90-100%, B 80-89%, C 70-79%, D 60-69%, E less than 60%.

Plagiarism: The practice of claiming or implying original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement. Plagiarism is concerned with the issue of false attribution. Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure.