

FORS 4380

Ethics and professional practice

Fall 2017

Course Information

PROFESSOR: Dr. Bobby LaRue
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CLASS HOURS: On-line.

Please e-mail me for questions or assistance with course materials

Textbook

1. Bowen, Robin T., Ethics and the Practice of Forensic Science, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (2009).
Available online at no cost for SHSU students
at: <http://www.crcnetbase.com/doi/book/10.1201/b10367?queryID>

Course Description

This course provides an overview of ethics and professional practice in forensic science. Ethical dilemmas, bias, and organizational culture will be explored. This course provides knowledge that is essential to those who intend to pursue forensic-related careers. This course is offered in support of the new undergraduate minor in forensic science and is intended primarily for criminal justice and criminology majors interested in pursuing investigative or non-laboratory based careers in forensic science (e.g., crime scene investigations) and science majors who want to pursue more traditional (laboratory- based) careers in forensic science. Credit 3.

Course Objectives:

The course objectives are:

1. To develop an understanding of ethics and best practices to ensure due diligence in forensic science -- with awareness of codes of ethics, the increased scrutiny of the field, and professionalism.
2. To explore the nexus between science and law but to identify differences in governance policies.
3. To offer an overview of ethical models, types of misconduct and strategies to eliminate unethical behavior within the profession of forensic science.
4. To foster an informed understanding of ethical principles, terminology, and technical advances crucial to the advancement of the profession of forensic science.
5. To explore issues of ethics and morality at the interface of criminal justice and forensic science.
6. To provide foundation for informed consumption of news media, current events and scientific discourse as they relate to forensic science, law and criminal justice.
7. To encourage and provide opportunity to articulate learned material via exams, assignments and class discussions.

Attendance Policy

This is an online course. There are no class meeting times scheduled. Your attendance will be recorded according to your participation to the quizzes at the end of each section. **To be considered**

as actively attending this class, you should have taken at least one quiz on Unit A by Friday 8 September.

This is an intensive online course. If you even THINK you are a procrastinator, then this online course is NOT for you. A student's willingness or desire to learn is what actually makes the online learning experience work.

In this course you are expected to be self-paced on a suggested study schedule as regards the taking of quizzes and exams. The minimum study progress has been developed to help you complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives. This online course was developed with non-traditional students in mind -- mature students and those unable or those who find it difficult to come to campus to take the course in a classroom setting. If you are prone to last minute problems, and not one who typically works ahead of schedule in anticipation of these situations, then again, this online course is NOT for you.

Grading Policy

There will be 9 on-line quizzes (10%), 3 exams for each unit (45%), a final *comprehensive* exam (25%), and a 1-2 page essay (20%) in this course.

You can obtain 5 points extra credit by completing the Class Survey (which is different from IDEA survey), which will be available after

1 December 2017.

If you may experience a technical problem while taking a quiz or an exam call immediately the Support Desk (936-294-2780) so that they might be able to help you as the specific problem is happening.

	Topic	Due Date	Points	Percentage
On-line Quizzes	On each Chapter	End of each week	30 each	10%
Exam 1	Unit A	22 September 2017	90	15%
Exam 2	Unit B	20 October 2017	90	15%
Exam 3	Unit C	17 November 2017	90	15%
Final exam	Comprehensive of Units A, B, and C	5 December 2017	150	25%
Essay	Case study	6 November 2017		20%
Total				100%
Class survey	Extra credit	5 December 2017	5	

Grade scale:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

Make-up Exams

Quizzes and Exams 1-3 and the Final Exam are timed and can only be taken once. Quizzes will be 30 minutes, Unit Exams 60 minutes, and the Final Exam 150 minutes. There will be no make-up exams. Please, see the table below to check the dates of availability.

Schedule of Lectures and Course Progress (Suggested Study Schedule)

This is a self-paced online course. You are responsible to access course documents and take quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system and respect the deadlines reported below. To help you complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives, you are highly recommended to comply with the following study schedule:

Wk	Week (Interval Starting and Ending Dates)	Unit	Topic	Book Chapter	Assessment	
					Quiz	Exam
1	Starts 23 Aug 2017	Unit A	What is Ethics?	1	1	Exam A
			The Ethics of the Criminal Justice System	2	2	
	Ends 22 Sep 2017		Ethics in the Courtroom	3	3	
2	Starts 22 Sep 2017	Unit B	Research Ethics in Science	4	4	Exam B
			Ethics in Forensic Science	5	5	
	Ends 20 Oct 2017		Unethical Behavior	6	6	
	Starts 22 Sep 2017 Ends 6 Nov 2017		Case Study Essay			
3	Starts 20 Oct 2017	Unit C	Good Examples of Bad Behavior	7	7	Exam C
			Codes of Ethics	8	8	
	Ends 17 Nov 2017		An Ethical Approach to Forensic Professionalism	9	9	
4	Starts 3 Dec 2017 Ends 5 Dec 2017	Final Exam				

Blackboard

The course Home Page for FORS 4380 can be reached via: <https://shsu.blackboard.com>. Login to Blackboard system with your university username and password. Since announcements and handouts will be posted on the course home page, it is your responsibility to check the course home page regularly in order to keep up with the course. You are also responsible to take quizzes and exams on time from the Blackboard system.

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 Holiday Policy

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