

2018 Spring FORS 4380 Ethics and Professional Practice

Professor

Dr. Jorn (Chi Chung) Yu
Office: CFS 221 F
Telephone: 936-294-4412
E-mail: jornyu@shsu.edu

Textbooks

Required Textbook:

- Bowen, Robin T., Ethics and the Practice of Forensic Science, CRC Press, 2009. Available online at SHSU Library (NGL) at no cost for SHSU students: <http://www.crcnetbase.com.ezproxy.shsu.edu/isbn/978-1-4200-8893-9>
Check with NGL librarian, if you have any trouble of accessing the textbook.

Supplemental Textbook:

- Barnett, Peter, Ethics in Forensic Science, Professional Standards for the Practice of Criminalistics, CRC Press, 2001. Also available online at Library (NGL) website at no cost for SHSU students at: <http://library.shsu.edu/>

Note: To access this title please perform a search from NGL search engine and select the electronic version.

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of ethics and professional practice in forensic science. Ethical dilemmas, bias, and organizational culture will be explored. This course will provide 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 principally for criminal justice and criminology majors interested in pursuing investigative or non-laboratory based careers in forensic science (e.g., crime scene investigation) and science majors who want to pursue more traditional (laboratory-based) careers in forensic science.

Learning Objectives

The course objectives are:

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.

1. To explore the nexus between science and law but to identify differences in governance policies.
2. To offer an overview of ethical models, types of misconduct and strategies to eliminate unethical behavior within the profession of Forensic Science.
3. To foster an informed understanding of ethical principles, terminology, and technical advances crucial to the advancement of the profession of Forensic Science.
4. To explore issues of ethics and morality at the interface of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
5. To provide foundation for informed consumption of news media, current events and scientific discourse as they relate to Forensic Science, Law and Criminal Justice.
6. To encourage and provide opportunity to articulate learned material via exams, assignments and class discussions.

Schedule of Lectures and Course Progress (Suggested Study Schedule)

It is a self-paced online course. Course materials will be released in unit blocks. These will be accessible the night before the start of a new unit. Students are responsible for accessing course documents, and taking quizzes and exams in the Blackboard system. However, to help students complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives, the study schedule is suggested below:

Week	Week (Interval Starting and Ending Dates)	Unit	Topic	Book Chapter	Assessment	
					Quiz	Exam
	Starts 1/18	Unit A	What is Ethics?	1	1	Exam A
			The Ethics of the Criminal Justice System	2	2	
	Ends 2/19 (17:00, Sunday)		Ethics in the Courtroom	3	3	
	Starts 2/20	Unit B	Research Ethics in Science	4	4	Exam B
			Ethics in Forensic Science	5	5	
	Ends 3/26 (17:00, Sunday)		Unethical Behavior	6	6	
	Starts 3/27	Unit C	Good Examples of Bad Behavior	7	7	Exam C
			Codes of Ethics	8	8	
	Ends 5/7 (17:00, Sunday)		An Ethical Approach to Forensic Professionalism	9	9	
	Due 5/8 (17:00, Monday)	Final Exam				

Grading Policy

There will be 9 on-line quizzes (20%), 3 Exams (45%), and a Final Exam (25%), online discussions (10%) and in this course.

Assessment	Content Examined	Due Date (COB, 17:00)	Points	Percent age
On-line Quizzes	On assigned Chapters	Quiz 1-3: Available from 1/18 - 2/19	30/each	20%
		Quiz 4-6: Available from 2/20 - 3/26	30/each	
		Quiz 7-9: Available from 3/27 - 5/7	30/each	
Online Discussion Boards	Specified Topics	Due by end of Unit Exam	30	10%
Exam A	Chapter 1, 2, 3 (Unit A)	2/19 (17:00)	100	15%
Exam B	Chapter 4, 5, 6 (Unit B)	3/26 (17:00)	100	15%
Exam C	Chapter 7, 8, 9 (Unit C)	5/7 (17:00)	100	15%
Final Exam	Comprehensive	Available Date: 5/1. Due by 5/8 (17:00)	100	25%
			Total	100%

All quizzes within a unit will be made available when each unit begins unless specified otherwise above. All quizzes MUST be completed by the due date listed above (i.e. at the completion of each unit).

Grade scale:

90 – 100% A

80 – 89% B

70 – 79% C

60 – 69% D

Below 60% F

Make-up Exams

Quizzes and Exams are timed and can only be taken once. There will be no make-up exams.

Blackboard

The course Home Page can be reached via: <http://distance.shsu.edu/>. 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

Please see the link below for more details: http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/faculty-handbook/AcademicHonesty_V_5.3_2010.pdf