



Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Syllabus Spring Semester 2018

Professionalism and Ethics in Criminal Justice (CJ 4365)

Professor: Laurie L. Christensen CFPS, FM, M.S.
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Class Hours: ONLINE
Classroom: ONLINE
Office Hours: Available through Blackboard's Virtual Office

TEXTBOOK:

The following text is **required** for all students attending this class. The dates for specific reading assignments are in the attached calendar. **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIAL PRIOR TO THE DATES SPECIFIED IN THE "CLASS SCHEDULE."**

Braswell, Michael C., McCarthy, Belinda R., and McCarthy, Bernard J. eds. (2017), *Justice, Crime and Ethics*, 9th Edition.

IMPORTANT:

WATCH THE CALENDAR ON CRITICAL DATES – WE ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT YOUR ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER AND YOU ARE ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR SCHOLARSHIP YOU COULD BE AFFECTED BY NOT WATCHING DATES:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html?Sem=Spring&Year=2018>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Description: This course is designed to provide students with an overview of major ethical theories and to place these theories into a criminal justice context. Early in the semester we will discuss the history of and current developments in the general areas of ethics and moral reasoning. This material will serve as a foundation to examine several contemporary ethical problems including, but not limited to, issues related to crime and the administration of justice. Throughout the semester, we will be examining the general questions: "What should we be doing to see that 'justice' prevails?" and "What constitutes 'good' criminal justice practice?" These questions will be raised in reference to each of the different components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections).

Objectives: This class is designed to introduce students to the normative ethics of criminal justice. There are three basic objectives

- Learning the "language" of normative ethics;
- Reflecting on our own system of normative ethics; and
- Engaging in an informed and comprehensive examination of the administration of criminal justice relying on the "language" of normative ethics.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:



Since this class is being offered in a non-traditional (on-line) format, there are no formally scheduled class sessions. However, “class attendance” requirements will be followed in accordance with the spirit of Academic Policy Statement 800401 which instructs students that they are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and allows the professor to reduce grades depending on a student’s failure to regularly attend classes. Although there are not any assigned class sessions for the on-line format of this class, you are expected to visit the Blackboard website for the class regularly **(at least three times each week throughout the semester)** to check to see if any assignments or additional material has been posted to the site.

There are “**Discussion Sessions**” associated with each learning module posted at the Blackboard website and your active participation in these sessions is “**mandatory**,” all students are expected to read the discussions as they take place.

Discussions end on Wednesday at midnight each week, they are open to view and get ahead but, when the close they are closed. You must respond to two of your classmates for full credit.

Two Exams will primarily draw from material included in the required text book and learning modules presented through the Blackboard platform but information included in the “Discussion Sessions” is also eligible for inclusion on the exams. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that students visit the Discussion Sessions on a regular basis and review them prior to the exams. You are responsible for all material discussed during these sessions. Unannounced “reaction papers” described below will be called for on an irregular basis for class management purposes and will be used in the determination of your final semester grade. Points lost for those assignments cannot be made-up.

GRADING POLICY:

- A. **DISCUSSIONS WEEKLY:** There are discussion questions due each week, no exceptions or make-ups. Extra credit is offered later in the semester but, I do not open questions back up. NOTE: I want to be very clear, this is a college course that you are expected to attend, taking it online does not mean you do not have to attend class weekly. You can make a 100 on exams and an A on all papers, *miss a few discussions and fail the course!* The only way to know you are attending class is by weekly discussions therefore, there is more weight on those assignments, treat this like any other event on your weekly schedule. Make a specific time to attend and check in for assignments.
- B. **REGULAR EXAMS:** There will be **two regular exams** given throughout the semester. The format for these exams will be “multiple-choice” and “true/false” in nature. While taking the exam, you will be able to access your notes, book, and other handouts provided throughout the semester. Each exam will be “timed” so that students need to prepare for the exam as if no notes were available and final scores may be reduced depending on the length of time taken to complete the exam.
- C. **REACTION PAPERS:** **TWO times throughout the semester** you will be required to write a brief paper in response to some issue or event brought to your attention by your professor. The dates and subject matter of these reaction papers will be determined by your professor and **WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE**. These reaction papers must be submitted when they are called for and you will receive from 0 to 40 points each for a total of 80 “reaction paper points” possible throughout the semester.



APA FORMAT! No less than 750-1000 words – APA FORMAT!

There are two purposes for these papers: 1) to require you to apply concepts and principles to demonstrate your familiarity with the material being covered, and; 2) to reinforce the importance that you visit the class Blackboard platform regularly throughout the semester. *If you fail to submit a response by the date a reaction paper is called for, you will NOT be able to make it up.*

Links to help you with APA Format:

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- <http://www.apastyle.org/>
- <http://www.citationmachine.net/apa/cite-a-book>
- <https://templates.office.com/en-us/APA-styles-TM00002099>
- <https://apps.weber.edu/wsuiimages/WritingCenter/StepbyStepAPAforMac.pdf>

D. **GRADING:**

A	(90% - 100%)
B	(80% - 89%)
C	(70% - 79%)
D	(60% - 69%)
F	(< 60%)

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All exams will be delivered through the Blackboard learning platform with a window of time allowing students to complete them so there should be no need for “make-up” opportunities.

CLASS BEHAVIOR:

Some of the substance of this course is likely to be controversial in nature. When discussing moral or ethical thoughts on various matters, people often present a dogmatic or ideological position akin to a religious or political belief system. Our discussions will sometimes force us to examine ideas that are repugnant to such belief systems. In the best scenario, we will do so with an open mind welcoming the opportunity to set one belief system beside another, gaining insight from the comparative perspective. In the worst scenario, we will become defenders of our beliefs and/or enemies of alternative belief systems.

Students in this class will be challenged to welcome and embrace diversity of opinion. Personal attacks against another person's belief system will not be tolerated. They will be identified as such by the professor (or any other class participant who senses that discussions have moved to a personal level) and stopped. *Students who continue to engage in personal level challenges will first be counseled by the professor but may ultimately be dropped from the class.*



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.

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

Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University's Guidelines that refer to instances of "academic dishonesty" (available in the Office of Student Life or on-line at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html> in accordance with the statement, any student engaged in academic dishonesty in this class will receive an "F" for the semester and will, consequently, be terminated from the graduate program.

The professor may require that written material submitted in fulfillment of any of the requirements for this class be submitted for an evaluation through Turnitin.com so all work submitted must include appropriate source citation and must represent the original work of the student with appropriate and full source attributions. Information about Turnitin.com can be found at their web-site <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:

Please see the information located online at the following site:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Please see the information located online at the following site:

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

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

Please see the information for your student handbook located online at the following site:

<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>