

## **2019080552 CRIJ5322 ADVANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS (LECTURE)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

CRIJ5322 Advanced Criminal Justice Ethics. 3 Credit Hours. In this course students study the practical implications of moral philosophy and ethics in a free society during the day-to-day administration of a criminal justice agency.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate they understand ethics and can critically examine ethical issues in criminal justice. The objectives of the course are to,

- understand how we create crime, why we have law, and how we justify punishment
- understand the role government plays in regulating morality
- understand the moral duties of criminal justice agents
- identify the philosophies guiding criminal justice policies and practices
- identify and examine contemporary ethical issues in policing, courts, correction, and juvenile justice

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**Required Reading.** Shafer-Landau, R. (2018) *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, 4th edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780190631390.

Students must have a basic understanding of the material covered in *The Fundamentals of Ethics* before diving into the sources I provide. I will provide additional reading materials appropriate for an advanced ethics course. In advanced ethics, students read excerpts of influential texts and essays, such as:

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Bentham, J. *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*
- Hobbes, T. *Leviathan*
- Kant, I. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
- Locke, J. *Two Treatises of Government*
- Mill, J. S. *Utilitarianism*
- Rawls, J. *A Theory of Justice*
- Rousseau, JJ. *The Social Contract*

### **MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Portions of this course are online. Students must be familiar with Canvas in order to navigate the course materials, assignments, and assessments. You can learn to use Canvas by reviewing the student study guide at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

**Class Participation (25%).** Ethics is a complicated topic with ample room for discussion, but that can only happen if students are prepared. Students are expected to complete the readings before class and show up with notes and questions about the material. Participation is measure by attending and participating in class discussion.

**Annotated Bibliography (25%).** Students will complete an annotated bibliography of contemporary ethical issues in criminal justice. Students will select 10 peer-reviewed articles published over the last 10 years that focus on ethical issues in law enforcement, courts, corrections, or juvenile justice. Students can focus on 1 or more of these areas. Annotated bibliographies should be no longer than 250 words. Each entry must contain a proper citation and concise summary of the article.

**Midterm and Final Exams (50%).** Exams are short answer/essay and consist of 10-20 questions, worth up to 10 points. Short answer and essay exams assess a student's depth of understanding. For short answer exams, students should be prepared to interpret the material in their own words.

## LECTURE TOPICS

### The Fundamentals of Ethics

- The Good Life
- Doing the Right Thing
- The Status of Morality

### Virtue Ethics

- Developing Moral Character
- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*

### Consequentialism

- Utilitarianism
- Mill, J. S. *Utilitarianism*
- Bentham, J. *Principles of Morals and Legislation*

### Deontology

- Kantian Ethics
- Kant, I. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

### Social Contract Theories

- Rousseau, JJ. *The Social Contract*
- Hobbes, T. *Leviathan*
- Rawls, J. *A Theory of Justice*

## Individual Rights & Civil Disobedience

- Mill, J. S. *On Liberty*, by John Stuart Mill
- Locke, J. *Two Treatises of Government*, Essay 2: Concerning the True Original Extent and End of Civil Government
- Thoreau, H.D. *Civil Disobedience*