

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an analysis of contemporary ethical issues in crime and justice. Classical and contemporary ethical theories will be applied to the discussion of such issues as discretion, corruption, use of force, racism, deception, professionalism, and the nature and meaning of justice. This is a writing intensive class, which means 60% or more of your grade is based on written assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of the course is to help students become familiar with some fundamental philosophies of morality and apply them to justice related issues. 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,

1. Demonstrate writing skills appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in use of technology appropriate to the discipline of criminal justice.
3. Demonstrate understanding and value of criminal justice ethics.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the nature of justice.
5. Demonstrate understanding of basic ethical theories and their application to criminal justice practice.
6. Identify ethical issues commonly occurring during criminal justice operations.
7. Demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and reasoning to resolving common ethical dilemmas encountered in criminal justice practice.
8. Demonstrate multicultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.
9. Demonstrate understanding of key concepts of criminal justice.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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

Braswell, M., Miller, L., and Pollock, J. (2012) *Case Studies in Criminal Justice Ethics*, 2nd edition. Waveland Press. ISBN 978157766747

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is completed online using the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System <https://tamuct.instructure.com>. Students must be able to access Canvas in order to complete assignments. A student's final grade in this course is based on how well they perform on chapter quizzes and written assignments.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

Chapter Quizzes (10%) Reviews require students match definitions to terms and concepts found in the chapter. The purpose of reviews is to ensure reading and understanding of the material. Students receive limited feedback with their score, for more detailed feedback students must contact the instructor.

Application Exercises (30%) Application exercises are written assignments that require students to seek out information on their own. These assignments help tie ethics to real world issues and asks students to work through criminal justice dilemmas by applying various moral philosophies. Each exercise has different requirements and additional resources to use. *Writing is important and significantly affects scores.*

Service Paper (40%) This course has a service component. Students are required to complete 15 hours of community service and write about their experience. The community service must be signed off on by a supervisor and you must submit a service paper to receive a grade for this assignment.

LECTURE TOPICS

Fundamentals of Ethics: Part One, The Good Life

Chapter 1 Hedonism: Its Powerful Appeal

Chapter 2 Is Happiness All that Matters?

Chapter 3 Getting What You Want

Chapter 4 Problems for the Desire Theory

Fundamentals of Ethics: Part Two, Normative Ethics: Doing the Right Thing

Chapter 5 Morality and Religion

Chapter 6 Natural Law

Chapter 7 Psychological Egoism

Chapter 8 Ethical Egoism

Chapter 9 Consequentialism: Its Nature and Attractions

Chapter 10 Consequentialism: Its Difficulties

Chapter 11 The Kantian Perspective: Fairness and Justice

Chapter 12 The Kantian Perspective: Autonomy and Respect

Chapter 13 The Social Contract Tradition: The Theory and Its Attractions

Chapter 14 The Social Contract Tradition: Problems and Prospects

Chapter 15 Ethical Pluralism and Absolute Moral Rules

Chapter 16 Ethical Pluralism: Prima Facie Duties and Ethical Particularism

Chapter 17 Virtue Ethics

Chapter 18 Feminist Ethics

Fundamentals of Ethics: Part Three, Metaethics: The Status of Morality

Chapter 19 Ethical Relativism

Chapter 20 Moral Nihilism

Chapter 21 Eleven Arguments Against Moral Objectivity