



SYLLABUS
AJ 582 (Online)
Criminal Justice Ethics
Spring 2010

Professor: Kelly Cheeseman Dial, PhD

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Office Hours: Mon, 4-6 (AKH), Tues 10-4, Wed 10:30-12:30, or by appointment

Required Texts

Pollock, J. (2007). Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice. 5th ed. Wadsworth.

Maxwell, J., & Dorman, J. (1997). Becoming a Person of Influence: How to Positively Impact the Lives of Others. Thomas Nelson.

Software/System Requirements

Windows XP or Vista

DSL or cable modem capability

Microsoft Word

Course Goal

The student should have a deeper understanding of ethics as it relates to crime and criminal justice. The course will examine ethics in policing, court administration, corrections, as well as theoretical foundations. Past and present theories will be included as well as emphasis on morals, mores, values and beliefs and how they shape who we are and how we interact with the administration of “justice.”

Class lectures will be conducted according to a lecture-discussion format. Lectures and presentation materials will help clarify points made by the author(s). Discussions (a major emphasis in the class) will help other students think critically about criminology and what it means to society as a whole and the criminal justice field in particular. It is crucial that students come to class prepared having read the required material for class and having completed any other tasks or assignments that are required. Films, other video presentations,

and guest speakers may be utilized to try and critically evaluate ethics and its importance in society. Ethics and the criminal justice system do not exist apart from the people who make, enforce, and suffer from it.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn and have fun in the process.
2. To introduce the student to research and theories that are relevant to ethics and the criminal justice system in the 21st Century.
3. To increase our understanding of ethics and how this impacts ourselves and society as a whole.
4. To provide a forum for students to express their ideas and feelings regarding the criminal justice system and how it responds to people.

Class Overview:

The material for the class is broken into 15 block/units (see below), essentially one block per week. We will cover a lot of material, but the reading load and pace should be quite manageable. Since this is an online course, students will be expected to keep up with readings and lecture notes on their own and come prepared to weekly chat sessions with questions and comments.

Attendance Policy:

Traditional attendance does not apply in the on-line setting, but participation in class chat sessions will be noted and will count for a portion of your grade.

You are expected to come to chat sessions fully prepared to discuss the appropriate material. This means that you must do the reading and keep up. If everyone makes an effort to get involved in chat discussions and on-line postings this class experience will be more enjoyable and productive for all of us. As participation is such an important part of the educational experience, failure to participate in more than **ONE** chat session will constitute a lone letter grade reduction for each absence. **(Please note that merely showing up in a chat is not participation!)**

Grading Policy and Course Requirements:

Mini Papers	3	50 points	150	448 and up = A
Readings				398 - 447 = B
Journal	1	100 points	100	348 - 397 = C
Research	1	150 points	150	0 - 347 = F
Project				
Discussions	10	10 Points	100	

Mini-Papers: The mini-paper should be a 1500-2100 word (5 to 7 pages) integrating material from that section of the course to a topic of relevance to be chosen by the student. Topics can vary as long as they relate to ethics in criminal justice. These mini-papers are an

opportunity for the student to explore questions that they have about ethics and criminal justice. Questions about paper relevancy and topic should be address to the professor.

READINGS JOURNAL: Students will be reading a book entitled, *Becoming a Person of Influence*. Each week, the student should write 1-2 pages outlining their impressions, concerns, and feelings about the chapter assigned for that week. Attention should be placed on reflecting about the chapter, what they said to the student and the impact that it has upon them. Students will compile their entries into one notebook or folder and turn them in on **April 1, 2010**

RESEARCH PAPER: Each student is expected to prepare a 3000-5000 word (10-15 pages) paper on a specific issue relating to ethics and criminal justice. The paper should reflect thought, insight, scholarly research, and be of publishable quality. **The paper is expected to be an original work and CAN NOT be a broader explanation of a mini-paper.**

Criteria:

1. Relevance to ethics and criminal justice
2. Incorporation of concepts/theories/information from assigned readings
3. Incorporation of relevant sources beyond assigned readings
4. Clarity of writing, appropriate use of grammar, and adherence to citation style (APA)

Questions about citation, use of references, or topic should be addressed to the professor.

Please note that final projects submitted late will result in a reduction of grade, which will be based on how late the submission was received. You may turn any assignment in early.

No paper (daily or final) should be considered complete until receipt is acknowledged. Papers must be completed in Microsoft office word or a compatible program. Vista users must send documents in a XP readable format

Make Up Policy:

Make-up exams/assignments will not be given.

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi expect 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 university.

University Policy on Disability:

If a student has a disability which qualifies under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by the ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing address: 118 College Drive, 8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; Telephone: (601) 266-5024; TTY: (601) 266-6837; Fax: (601) 266-6035.

Unit 1

Introduction

An Introduction to Ethics Chapter 1

Unit 2

Ethics and Morals Chapter 1 and 2
Chapter 1 - Maxwell

Unit 3

Making Ethical Decision Chapter 3
Where do ethics come from? Chapter 2 - Maxwell

Unit 4

What is Justice? Chapter 4
Chapter 3 - Maxwell

Law and the Individual Chapter 5
Chapter 4 - Maxwell

Unit 5

Ethics and Professionalism Chapter 6

Chapter 5 - Maxwell

Police and Ethics

Chapter 7
Chapter 6 - Maxwell

Unit 6

Corruption

Chapters 8 and 9
Chapter 7 - Maxwell

Unit 7

Ethics and Legal Professionals

Chapter 10 and Chapter 11
Chapter 8 - Maxwell

Unit 8

Ethics and Punishment

Chapter 12
Chapter 11
Chapter 9 - Maxwell

Unit 9

Institutional Corrections

Chapter 13

Unit 10

Community Corrections

Chapter 14

Unit 11

Terrorism and Racial Profiling

Chapter 15

Unit 12

Research and Ethics

Outside readings posted on Blackboard

Unit 13

Ethics and Forensics

Outside readings posted on Blackboard

Unit 14

Becoming a Professional in the Field

Outside readings posted on Blackboard

Unit 15

The Future of Ethics

Outside readings posted on Blackboard
