

SYLLABUS
CJ 482 Ethics
Fall 2009

Professor: W. Wesley Johnson, PhD

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Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 2:15-3:30

Classroom: TEC 101

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-12, Wednesday 1: 30 – 3: 30 , Thursday 9-11, or by appointment

Required Texts

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

Course Goals

1. The primary goal of the course is to provide students with a critical understanding of ethics as it relates to crime and criminal justice. Building on the assumption that ethics is an integral part of life the course will examine ethics in policing, courts, and corrections. Philosophical and theoretical orientations will be utilized to examine the evolution of norms, mores, and laws. Specific attention will be given to the codification of ethics and its impact on the professionalization of criminal justice.
2. The secondary goal of this course is to provide students with “tools” to evaluate both their own behavior and the behaviors of others, particularly those in their workplace.
3. The tertiary goal of this goal is to provide a classroom environment that allows students to express their opinions regarding their own and others’ ethical treatment.

Lecture Format

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 ethics 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. Students are encouraged to ask questions and validate their understanding of the material in class. Films, news media, and guest speakers will be utilized from time to time to augment class discussion and assigned readings. Students are challenged and expected to be critically engaged in the subject matter. This is an upper level course and students are expected to have completed assigned readings BEFORE class. Make sure you bring your book with you to every class!

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce the student to philosophies and theories that are relevant to the study of ethics and the criminal justice system in the 21st Century.
2. To increase student understanding of how ethics impact their lives, the criminal justice profession, and society as a whole.

3. To provide a forum for students to express their ideas and feelings regarding the criminal justice system and how it responds to people.

4. To examine both classical and contemporary examples of unethical behavior.

Attendance Policy:

It is expected that students attend class and be prepared to discuss the scheduled topic. While you are entitled to miss two classes during the semester by university policy, you are encouraged to attend every class. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain information covered in class from other students. Do not expect to obtain information missed in class from the instructor.

Attendance will be taken at every class session. Excessive absences will result in a reduction of your class participation grade as determined by the instructor.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements:

Test #1	25%	Grade:_____
Test #2	25%	Grade:_____
Test #3	25%	Grade:_____
Media Summaries	15%	Grade:_____
Participation	10%	Grade:_____

Grades indicate either superior (A), good (B), satisfactory (C), passing (D) or Failing (F) evidence of, among other things, the student’s grasp of the subject matter; critical evaluation of the subject matter; and ability to organize, analyze, and integrate ideas.

The following is the course grade distribution:

- A 90-100
- B 80-90
- C 70-80
- D 60-70
- F 59 and below

TESTS: There will be three tests. Tests will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. The tests will cover material presented in class as well as material for the assigned readings in the textbook. **PLEASE BRING A SCANTRON WITH YOU TO THE EXAMS**

Media Content Analyses Summaries: Students are expected to analyze three articles from the electronic media that report/discuss ethical issues in criminal justice. The articles must represent three distinctly different events. You may not have, for example, three articles on the same Sheriff X taking bribes. Preference should be given to identifying articles that discuss “dirty” police officers, probation/parole officers, correctional officers, judges, etc. Students who have similar articles may be required to locate and analyze other articles. Your analysis should be more than a brief synopsis of the article. I am looking for your thoughts, ideas, opinions, etc. Students are expected to rank the overall punitive tone of each article from 1 to 5, with one being “not punitive” to 5 being “very punitive” AND justify their ranking with by analyzing the content of the article, identifying words that reflect outrage, shame, disgust, forgiveness, empathy, or sympathy. You are required to provide a hard copy of the article and a disc copy of

your synopsis. All analyses will be evaluated using Turnitin.com software and screened for plagiarism. SO, make sure you do your own work. Make sure you re-read these directions for completing this assignment before starting your analyses and before submitting your analyses. All summaries should be in Times Roman 12 pt font with no more than 1 inch margins. You will be graded on the following criteria:

- Length of article (**no grade** for articles less than one printed page)
- Appropriateness of the article to the assignment
- Synopsis of article/events (parsimonious; one paragraph, max)
- Reference, synthesis and application of concepts covered in class in each article analysis
- Justification of ranking/analysis (ability to assess use of punitive/shame/reintegration language)
- Appropriate use of grammar;
- Each analysis should be at least one page in length (Times New Roman 12 point, Double Spaced, 1 inch margins)

Class Participation:

As noted above class participation is essential to the learning process and facilitates class discussions. Although attendance in class is important it is also necessary to be an active participant in learning. The instructor may place students into groups and facilitate discussions on a variety of topic areas that relate to criminal justice. Students are expected to contribute; TALK and ASK Questions.

Classroom Conduct:

It is expected that students conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others. The instructor will not tolerate disrespect of others. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited. **THIS INCLUDES TEXT MESSAGING AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS.** It disrupts your learning and the learning of others around you. If you cannot commit your full attention to class for any reason, please do not ruin the class for those who want to learn. The professor reserves the right to remove any student from class if their behavior is disruptive (this includes students who are perceived to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs). It would be a waste of time to have to call university police to remove you from class so please remember that is an option and respect others. Our ability to discuss controversial issues will be contingent upon the willingness of the class to respect the opinions and expressions of their fellow classmates.

E-mail Accounts:

Every student is issued an e-mail account by the university. The university uses this account to contact students with messages from the Administrative and other offices. Students in this class are required to access their university e-mail account. You will, on occasion, be receiving information about the class and materials through this account. **Failure to have a university account or have access to it is not a failure on my part to communicate with you.**

Make Up Exam Policy:

Make-up exams will only be given for students with valid excuses. The validity of an excuse for a missed exam will be determined by the professor. To be considered for a make-up exam students must provide the instructor with appropriate documentation (i.e. Dr.'s note). If you miss an exam it is your responsibility to notify the professor and make arrangements to make up the exam. Each make-up exam will be short answer and essay, and each must be scheduled and taken before the next exam. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and take this exam during this time frame.

Academic Honesty:

The following is from the USM Undergraduate Bulletin:

“When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion.

Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by The University of Southern Mississippi.”

The Faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in the failure of the project and potentially the course. 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.

Think about how a letter of reprimand in your official student file regarding academic dishonesty in a CJ Ethics course might be considered by a future employer, especially in the CJ field.

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.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

The reading assignments for each class week are noted below. These reading assignments are the required reading for that particular class period and topic. It is expected that we may deviate somewhat from the time schedule as we spend more time on some topics and less on

others. Nevertheless, unless stated in class, you are expected to come to class with the day's reading completed. Exams will include all reading material assigned up to the time of the exam, including those not discussed in class.

Important Dates to Consider

Last Day to Drop without financial penalty: September 1, 2009

Last Day to Drop: September 30, 2009

Fall break: October 8-9

Last Day to file for Spring 2010 Commencement: November 6, 2009

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 25-27, 2009

Final exam week: December 7-10, 2009

Graduation: December 11, 2009

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Dates	Topics	Readings & Assignments
August 20	Introduction (Bubba & Sissy Exercise)	
August 25	An Introduction to Ethics	Chapter 1
August 27	Ethics and Morals	Chapters 1 & 2
September 1	No class ; professional travel; out of class assignment	
September 3	Making Ethical Decisions; Where do ethics come from?	Chapter 3
September 8		
September 10	What is Justice?	Chapter 4
September 15		
September 17	Law and the Individual	Chapter 5
September 22		
September 24	Exam 1	
September 29	Ethics and Professionalism	Chapter 6
October 1	1st Media Analysis Due	
October 6	Police and Ethics	Chapter 7
October 8		
October 13	Corruption	Chapters 8 & 9
October 15		
October 20	Ethics and Legal Professionals	Chapters 10 & 11
October 22		
October 27	Exam 2	
October 29	Ethics and Punishment	Chapter 12
November 3		
November 5	Institutional Corrections	Chapter 13
November 10	2nd Media Analysis Due	
November 12	Community Corrections	Chapter 14
November 17		
November 19	Terrorism	Chapter 15
November 24	3rd Media Analysis Due	
December 1	Terrorism & Course Conclusion	

December 3

Last Exam

By signing this sheet I acknowledge receipt of the syllabus for AJ 482 Fall 2009 and that I have read and understand the requirements, including but not limited to the policies on academic honesty, attendance and use of cell phones and computers during class.

Student Signature

Date

Print Name

Professor Signature

Date

CELL PHONE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

It is the policy of the professor to restrict the use of cell phones and laptops in class due to access to Google, text messaging, music, etc. Students who fail to follow this policy will face the following consequences:

1st Offense: freebie

2nd offense: reduction of ONE LETTER GRADE off of final course grade

3rd Offense: reduction of ONE ADDITIONAL LETTER GRADE off of final course grade

4th Offense: student will fail the course with a grade of F

Students who have special circumstances that require that their phone remain on or on vibrate must submit these to me in writing by the 2nd class day.

By signing this sheet I acknowledge that I have read and understand the cell phone and technology policy

Student Signature

Date

Professor Signature

Date