INTRODUCTION

Starting this Fall 2017 semester, USM has switched to a new online platform called Canvas. The login page for Canvas can be found at: https://usm.instructure.com/login/canvas. All course work goes through Canvas. While many browsers will work, Google Chrome is suggested, as it has fewer complications. Do not attempt to use a smartphone, and note that even some tablets may be problematic.

Please note: You must carefully read this syllabus containing the Introduction, Course Overview, Course Structure and Requirements, Course Modules, University Information, and Course Schedule containing due dates for all graded discussions and assignments. Strict adherence to the submission time/dates for graded items will be enforced.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Required Readings/References: This course does not have a textbook; however, you will be required to review and research the ethical codes of conduct for various professional organizations affiliated with the criminal justice system. While others may be suggested, the three that follow are the primary organizations: the police, the lawyers and the forensic sciences. Become familiar with the content of these sites and utilize them as references in your writings.

- The International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP, Model Policy on Standards and conduct).
- and

- The American Bar Association (ABA) Model Rules of Professional Conduct

- The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)
  http://aafs.org/about/aafs-bylaws/article-ii-code-ethics-and-conduct

Course Description: This course is designed to familiarize students with the application of ethics and its underlying principles within the context of the criminal justice system. Ethics-based decision making is an integral component of operations across all agencies involved in the justice process. This includes the police, the courts and correctional institutions.
Course Outcomes:

After completion of this course you should be able to:
1. Describe the origin of ethics;
2. Define ethics as it relates to the criminal justice system;
3. Differentiate between the various concepts regarding ethics;
4. Separate the difference between an ethical and criminal violation;
5. Evaluate an ethical complaint;
6. Design and apply corrective procedures to ethical violations;
7. Compose ethical guidelines for policy development;
8. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in addressing ethical complaints; and
9. Compose a well written critique of any given policy related to criminal justice ethics.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

The structure for this course will be a little different from the regular face-to-face class you are used to. As a result, the student will be required to participate in a series of discussion topics found within the Modules and under the “Discussions” tab in the far-left column in Canvas. You will also be required to write four (4) essays found within the modules and under the “Assignments” tab in Canvas. The reason for this approach is to broaden the student’s horizons and perspectives as it relates to ethical issues and concerns found within the criminal justice system, and give them the opportunity to express themselves through an open dialogue.

All initial Discussion topics, the Assignment essays, including the Final Exam, must utilize the “endnote” process of citing references. Do Not Use in-text citing as is normally found in the social science writings. Use the “endnote” system (as found in MS Word) which places a number at the location where you used a reference and then at the end of the document it will allow you to list the source you utilized. With this method, there is no need to have a “Works Cited” or “References” section. Please ensure that you fully understand this process by viewing the below video: how to insert endnotes in MS Word:
http://video.about.com/wordprocessing/How-to-Insert-a-Footnote-or-Endnote-in-Microsoft-Word.htm

Discussions: The Discussions will be broken down into weekly units of instruction with each containing a different topic of interest. These will open each week about Midnight Sunday or about 0001 hours, Monday morning. With these Discussions, you must access Canvas and respond to the question/scenario no later than midnight Wednesday. Your response must be in the form of a short essay containing 350-450 words with at least three (3) outside references used in the “endnote” referencing format.

Then, from Wednesday midnight until midnight Saturday, you must return to Canvas and the topic area for that week where you must respond to the initial comments posted by two of your fellow students. This amounts to a total of three posted comments for each discussion topic, an initial and two follow up.

In these follow-up comments, do not just “agree” or “disagree” with someone without justifying why you feel that way, and where possible, provide an outside source to support your opinion. Remember, once the submission deadline has been met, Canvas will no longer allow you to post your comments for that topic. Each discussion board topic is worth fifty (50) points towards your final grade.

Please note: Monday through Wednesday post your initial comment in the form of an essay with at least three references, and return after midnight Wednesday through Saturday with your follow-up
comments and observations. Those who wait until Friday or Saturday to start this process or post all three of their comments on the same day will lose points accordingly. Doing them all on one day defeats the purpose of having a dialogue with observations from others. Again, do not wait until the end of the week to start posting – doing so will result reduced points.

**Essays (E):**

Throughout the term you will be required to write four (4) short essays on topical areas as reflected below. These essays will be written in accordance with the “endnote” guidance provided above under “course structure and requirements.” These essays contain between 700-800 words; double spaced margins utilizing a 12 point Times New Roman font; one inch margins; and at least four (4) references. There are NO exceptions to this requirement. Each essay is worth one hundred (100) points or 10% of your final grade. Each essay will be uploaded to its designated location on Canvas no later than Saturday evening at midnight of the week it is due. **Again, no later than 2400 hours Saturday evening for the week it is due. All late submissions will be given a zero.**

These topics are:

1. What is Noble Cause policing and how do we deal with it?
2. Provide the pros and cons of using an Ombudsman to investigate and resolve potential ethical violations within the criminal justice system.
3. Briefly describe the Duke Lacrosse case. Were there any legal and/or attorney ethical violations? Identify them and provide possible solutions.
4. Should ethical standards be nationalized? In other words, should the federal government (like the Justice Department) design the standards and make them mandatory for all police agencies in the USA? Support your reasoning.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will consist of a research project in the essay format containing 1400-1600 words and carries a grade value of **200 points.** It will also contain at least 5 separate sources of information. You must choose number 1 or number 2, not both.


Please remember, no late submissions will be accepted and a grade of “zero” will be awarded. There are no make-ups of assignments.

**Overall Grading Criteria**

Eight Discussion topics located in the Discussion tab and in Modules, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13:  
*each topic is worth 50 points = 400*

Four essay assignments (E1-E4) as found under the Assignments tab and within Modules 4, 7, 11 and 14:  
*each essay is worth 100 points = 400*
Final exam/research project as found in the Assignments tab and within Module 16:

Final exam is worth 200 points = 200

Grand total = 1,000 points

Grades: A = 900 – 1000, B = 800 – 899, C = 700 – 799, D = 600 – 699 or F = 0 - 599

COURSE MODULES

Introduction:
Since Canvas is new to USM faculty and students, it is suggested that you take the first few days to become familiar with Canvas by searching through the platform and watching any videos that may help you navigate the system.

Upon entering this course in Canvas, you will land on the “Home” page with announcements listed at the top. On that same page, you will need to establish your settings through the link provided. At the bottom of the page, links to import USM sites are provided: Academic Integrity Policy, Disability Assistance program, Mental Well-Being Statement, Netiquette for online courses, Academic Support Resources and a message from the Dean of Students. Everyone should open these links and familiarize themselves with the contents.

Now it is time to enter the first Module and begin with the Student Guide to Getting started.

Module 1-Student Guide to Getting Started: August 16 – 20, 2017

As mentioned above, the next stop after the Home page is Module 1 – The Student Guide to Getting Started which is designed to help students. Should you have questions about the course, the syllabus, requirements, etc., please post them in the Discussion area labeled “Problems & Solutions”.

If you are having technical difficulties that are not course related, address them to Tech Support at USM. Your instructor is not able or equipped to resolve technical problems.

As part of this module and the process of learning how to navigate and use Canvas, you are asked to take a Quiz and post an opening/introductory statement. Please note that while these reflect points being assigned to them, none of these points count towards your final grade. They are provided solely as a guide for you to see how the system works.

Furthermore:

In the opening/introductory statement, along with introducing yourself, please confirm that you have read and fully understand this syllabus; viewed the content of the USM links at the bottom of the Home page; and will follow the Netiquette rules established for online course behavior and actions.

Course Module 2: August 21 – August 26, 2017 (Discussion – Origin of Ethics?)

The first four discussions will explore ethics as a whole and ethical issues regarding police officer decision making. Proceed to the Discussion tab or access the discussion through Module 2, read the topic for the week, and post your initial comments by midnight Wednesday. Please ensure that your written response is in accordance with the guidelines in this syllabus utilizing “endnotes” as your method of citing references. Then return for two additional comments by Saturday evening.

Graded: 50 points
Course Module 3: August 28 – September 2, 2017 (Discussion – Police Integrity)

Proceed to the Discussion tab or access the discussion through Module 3, read the topic for the week, and post your initial comments by midnight Wednesday. Please ensure that your written response is in accordance with the guidelines in this syllabus utilizing “endnotes” as your method of citing references. Then return for two additional comments by Saturday evening.

The topic is: “What is ethics? How far back in world history can you go to find the origin along with why they became necessary? “

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 4: September 5 – 9, 2017 (Holiday-Labor Day 4 September)
(Assignment Essay 1 – Noble Cause)

This is a short week by one day due to Monday, Labor Day. So, research the topic of Noble cause, and write and post your first essay in Canvas no later than 11:59 PM, Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Graded: 100 points

Course Module 5: September 11 – 16, 2017 (Discussion – Police Profiling)

Research and discuss the definitions and utilization of police profiling. Do not confuse the terms with racial profiling or criminal profiling as commonly used.

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 6: September 18 – 23, 2017 (Discussion – Police actions and the video camera)

This is another powerful discussion where you need to research the topic and issues before posting your position and beliefs.

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 7: September 25 – 30, 2017 (Assignment Essay 2 – Ombudsman)

Research the name and utilization of Ombudsman as it relates to ethical violations within the criminal justice system.

Graded: 100 points

Course Module 8: October 2 – 7, 2017 (Discussion – Forensics gets it wrong?)

In this discussion topic, you need to view the video and comment about the ethical issues relating to forensic evaluations. How do we address these situations?

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 9: October 9 – 14, 2017 (Discussion – A forensic dentist gone array?)

This discussion deals with the actions by a Dr. Michael West, formerly a forensic dentist in the State of Mississippi. Was he mistaken, a fraud or overzealous and why?

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 10: October 16 – 21, 2017 (Holiday-Fall Break 19-20 October) (No Classes)

Take the week off.

Discuss what happened with the Duke Lacrosse Case and identify ethical as well as criminal concerns. How does the system prevent this from happening again?

Graded: 100 points

Course Module 12:  October 30 – November 4, 2017 (Discussion – Sex in Prisons)

This discussion topic is frequently controversial but needs to be discussed. What ethical concerns do we have in this and how do we handle them?

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 13:  November 6 – 11, 2017 (Discussion – The US Supreme Court)

Is the US Supreme Court immune from having ethical violations? Watch the video and let’s discuss what you saw.

Graded: 50 points

Course Module 14:  November 13 – 18, 2017 (Assignment Essay – National Standards)

Should ethical standards be nationalized? In other words, should the federal government (like the Justice Department) design the standards and make them mandatory for all police agencies in the USA? Support your reasoning.

Graded: 100 points

Course Module 15:  November 20 – 25, 2017 (Holiday-Thanksgiving Week) (No Classes)

Course Module 16:  November 27 – December 5, 2017 (Last Day of Class – December 1st)

Two things occur during this Module:
(1) You are given the opportunity to ask questions about the final exam; and
(2) A place for you to submit your final written essay for grading

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2017 – FINAL EXAM DUE BY MIDNIGHT

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Integrity Policy

All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without explicit approval of all faculty members’ involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting those who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our academic integrity policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including
the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct”. Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University. For more details, please see Academic Integrity policy at: https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-acaf-pro-012. I have placed a PDF copy of this policy in the “Getting Started” section of this course.

The Office for Disability Accommodations at USM

If a student has a disability that 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 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.

Address:
The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3232 Fax: 601.266.6035
Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.

Netiquette

Overall, always be respectful to your fellow students. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. You can disagree but be thoughtful, polite and respectful in your response. Netiquette is online etiquette--the do's and don'ts of online communicating. Basic courtesy and common sense are generally the rule of the day when communicating face-to-face or through the Internet. However, the Internet does have a few guidelines that are particular to it. Some best practices:

Avoid using shortcuts you might use in text messages on your cell phone.

• DO NOT USE ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. This is the equivalent of yelling at someone.
• Do not spam your classmates. Spam is the practice of sending unsolicited emails usually trying to sell something. This is not an ethical practice.
• Use fonts that are easy to read, for example, Times Roman. While Mistral may be an interesting looking font, it is very difficult to read if used for more than a few words of text. On the same note, colors may be difficult for people to read. It is best to use colors in your text for emphasis only.

Considerations for taking an online course

As a student of an online course you must understand and agree to the following:

1. I understand that this is not a self-paced course and that in order to be successful in this course I will need to log in daily to read announcements, complete activities and assignments, and interact with the instructors/students in the course.
2. I understand that online courses do not take less time than on-ground courses and that I need to develop a time-management strategy that will allow me approximately eight to ten (8-10) hours a week in order to be actively and successfully involved in this course.
3. I have the required computer software, technology, and high-speed Internet access, and it is appropriately configured to work in the USM Canvas environment. Use of smartphones is not allowed.

4. I have read and understand the course syllabus and will comply with all the requirements outlined for the course.

5. I have the required technology and computer skills to be successful in the online environment and understand that I can access tutorials and documentation for Canvas in the student orientation course.

6. In the event of an emergency, illness, or issue that affects my participation in the course, I will contact the instructor immediately.

University Days and Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, August 16, 2017 = First day of classes**
- **Wednesday, August 23, 2017 =**
  - Last day to drop a course without special permission from instructor and chair
  - Last day to drop without financial penalty (No refund after this date, whatsoever)
- **Monday, September 4, 2017 = Holiday – Labor Day**
- **Thursday – Friday, October 19-20, 2017 = Fall Break**
- **Friday, October 27, 2017 =**
  - Last Day to withdraw with a grade of “W” (after this date actual grade will be issued)
- **Wednesday – Friday, November 22-24, 2017 = Thanksgiving Holidays**
- **Friday, December 1, 2017 = Last day of classes**
- **Wednesday, December 6, 2017 = Final exam due no later than 11:59 PM**
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<td>21-26 Aug</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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¹ All times are no later than 11:59 PM.