

College Document # _____
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CATALOG YEAR 2006-2008
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COLLEGE/SCHOOL : Arts and Sciences
Current Catalog Page(s) Affected _____

Course: Add: X Delete: _____
(check all that apply) Change: Number _____ Title _____ SCH _____
Description _____ Prerequisite _____

If new, provide Course Prefix, Number, Title, SCH Value, Description, prerequisite, and lecture/lab hours if applicable. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

CRIJ 5335 - Ethics of Criminal Justice
Three semester hours. (SP)

Explores the fundamental concept of fairness throughout the criminal justice system. It examines situations, dilemmas, and problems encountered by persons in all criminal justice agencies and organizations as they go about their day-to-day activities. *Prerequisites:* Graduate status; Enrollment restricted to students currently matriculating in the MSCJ program; CRIJ 3305, CRIJ 4321, SOCI 3336 (or the equivalent).

JUSTIFICATION: This course is being added as a required course because of the importance of considering and discussing the realities of working within the criminal justice system with those who are extremely likely to seek employment within that system.

Program: Add: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Minor: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed minor. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Faculty: Add: _____ Delete: _____ Change: _____ Attach new/changed faculty entry. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

College Introductory Pages: Add information: _____ Change information: _____ Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Approvals: _____ Signature _____ Date _____
Chair _____

Department Curriculum Committee

Chair
Department

Chair
College Curriculum Committee

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CRIJ 5335
Ethics in Criminal Justice

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Dean J. Champion, Ph.D.
dchamp555@aol.com

TEXT:

Daryl Close and Nicholas Meier. *Morality in Criminal Justice: An Introduction to Ethics*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2003.*

*This book was published in 1995 and reissued in 2003. Either the 1995 or 2003 version can be used, since it is the same book.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING SYSTEM:

Midterm Examination and Final Examination

All students must complete **two (2) examinations**, a Midterm Examination and a Final examination. Each examination counts **40 percent** of your course grade. Each examination covers both text material and discussions covered in six-week segments. Examinations consist of five, multi-part, short-answer essay questions. You will have one week to complete each examination. It must be submitted to me **in the Dropbox in MS Word for Windows**. **Due dates for examinations are provided in "Weekly Schedule with Due Dates" below.**

Lessons

There are 12 lessons. Included with each lesson is an **outside article assignment, four (4)** of which must be read by you. You may choose **which** article assignments to read, depending upon your personal and professional interests. These articles are designed to supplement and enhance your understanding of course content and provide additional insight into the topics discussed.

Written Assignments

Four lessons have a short written assignment. These written assignments are found at the ends of Lessons 3, 6, 9, and 12. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 10 points. These written assignments consist of responses to cases provided in the lesson. You will be evaluated on your thoughtfulness and the degree to which you have integrated learned material thus far in the course. Thus, 40 points can be earned from these written assignments. A cumulative grade is determined which will count 10 percent of your course grade. **These written assignments are also to be submitted to the Dropbox in MS Word for Windows.**

Due Dates for these written assignments are provided in the "Weekly Schedule with Due Dates" section below.

Forum Incidents and Discussions

At the conclusion of each lecture, you will find one or more Forum Incidents which include particular questions to be answered and posted in the Forum for discussion. These discussions are most often based on cases, hypothetical or real, drawn from experiences of personnel in various criminal justice organizations. Scenarios are presented which describe incidents and require some analysis, thought, and feasible solutions. Some professionals have called this teaching method **incident process analysis** or the **case method**. Discussions will be conducted over the Discussion Forum. **All** students are expected to participate in and contribute to these discussions each week. It is through these discussions that we can obtain a type of interaction with other students that might otherwise transpire in the traditional classroom setting. Your participation in these discussions will be evaluated and count 10 percent of your course grade. These discussions are evaluated according to the thoughtfulness of your contributions and ability to integrate course content into the discussion topic. You will write your answers to these Forum Incidents for everyone to see. You should read and respond to each persons' responses. Be sure and include **your names** on these postings. **All responses to forum discussions are due according to the dates provided below in the "Weekly Schedule with Due Dates."**

Thus, your course grade consists of the following:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Midterm examination (Lessons 1-6): | 40 percent |
| Final examination (Lessons 7-12): | 40 percent |
| Four Written Assignments: | 10 percent |
| Forum Discussions/Participation: | 10 percent |
| Total: | 100 percent |

Your grade will be determined as follows:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 88-100 | A |
| 80-88 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| Below 70 | D |

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A particularly interesting feature of the textbook for this course is that it contains the following:

1. Standard discussions of specific ethics topics
2. Multiple articles and short segments adapted from classical works or articles about different aspects of criminal justice ethics (in fact, these multiple articles make up each chapter)

3. Cases following each chapter, which are similar to the types of cases I have included for Forum Discussions and Written Assignments
4. Questions for discussion following each of the cases presented.

Therefore, whenever I assign a particular textbook chapter to read, I will specify **which** articles I want you to read in the chapter. Depending upon the subject matter, we will use one or more of the cases at chapter ends for Forum discussions. All lectures and assignments are included under Discussions. Midterm and Final Examinations are taken once you have completed lessons 6 and 12 respectively. You will have one week to complete each of these examinations and submit them to **the Dropbox in MS Word for Windows**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is about the fundamental concept of fairness throughout the criminal justice system. It examines situations, dilemmas, and problems encountered by persons in all criminal justice agencies and organizations as they go about their day-to-day activities. Whether persons are performing administrative roles or line duties, they are continually thrust into situations that require them to exercise choices. These choices are based to some extent on core organizational principles and codes of professional responsibility which are generally accepted by organizational members. However, personality systems and peer groups intrude in both predictable and unpredictable ways so that decision making is not always clear-cut. All criminal justice personnel, therefore, are affected by forces within and without their organizations that compel them to act in various ways. The circumstances of decision making are continuously changing. It is impossible to write rules of conduct to govern all situations, since we cannot possibly predict all of the scenarios to which we will be exposed.

This course is designed to enable students to think about their respective organizations and their expectations. Organizations have expectations of their membership. However, individual members have their own expectations which may or may not be consistent with those proscribed by the organization. We often devise informal ways of adapting to circumstances independent of formal organizational structure. In a sense, there are role conflict and performance dilemmas that confront each of us more or less frequently. There is a deep concern among most criminal justice professionals about doing the right thing in whatever activity is being performed. But doing the right thing is not always the easiest path to follow for a variety of reasons. Moral judgments must be made. These judgments are based on many factors. In this course, we will be exposed to the fundamentals of ethical theory, the rules of moral judgment, and various doctrines and controversies that are not easily resolved by referring to clear-cut organizational rules.

The field of criminal justice is conveniently divisible into law enforcement, prosecution and the courts, and corrections, although there are numerous subparts within each of these general divisions. This course examines ethical questions and dilemmas that confront professionals working in each of these areas. Extensive use is made of case studies, where situations are presented that require moral and ethical judgments. There are no correct solutions, in that no ready-made panacea can be advanced that will satisfy all of us. Rather, we will use these cases to consider various strategies or solutions for the problems presented, and to weigh and evaluate their consequences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the difference between morality and ethics
2. To acquire an understanding of ethical theories and codes
3. To understand the balance between observing suspect rights and enforcing the law
4. To appreciate the many factors impinging on day-to-day decision making in criminal justice agencies and organizations
5. To understand the role conflicts and interests of prosecutors, defense counsel, and the judiciary
6. To learn when organizational loyalty conflicts with individual or group interests and how these differences or conflicts can be harmonized or resolved
7. To understand deception, dishonesty, and corruption in its various forms and why these actions persist in criminal justice organizations
8. To devise strategies for coping with conflicts in one's work role and interpersonal relations
9. To appreciate the complementarity between informal and formal organizational structure and the interplay of ethical considerations in organizational and individual behaviors
10. To examine racial, gender, and socioeconomic inequalities and the influence of these variables on decision making in criminal justice organizations
11. To learn to think critically about ethical considerations in work settings and in interpersonal relations as well as about the professional materials you read.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Democracy: The Context for Criminal Justice Ethics in America

WEEK 2: Criminal Justice Ethics: Introduction and Definitions

WEEK 3: Criminal Justice Ethics: Sources and Framework (w/written assignment)

WEEK 4: Due Process and the Justice System

WEEK 5: Discretion, Decision Making, and Ethics

WEEK 6: Loyalty and Truth: The Ultimate Goal? (w/written assignment)

MIDTERM EXAMINATION (Lessons 1-6) Must be posted in Digital Dropbox

WEEK 7: Lying and Deception: Is It Ever Ethical?

WEEK 8: Abuse of Power I: Corruption

WEEK 9: Abuse of Power II: Use of Force (w/written assignment)

WEEK 10: Punishment

WEEK 11: Race, Gender, and Discrimination

WEEK 12: Policymaking and Ethical Decision Making in Criminal Justice (w/written assignment)

FINAL EXAMINATION (Lessons 7-12) Must be posted to Digital Dropbox