Justice 300X (CRN 51351)
Ethics and Justice
MayMester
May 11 - 22, 2015

Professor: Jeff May, J.D., M.A., Associate Professor
Office: 501 B Gruening, Phone: 474-5715, Email: jdmay@alaska.edu
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., or by appointment
Class Meetings: M-F 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Gruening 306

Course Description

This course familiarizes students with several popular theories used to analyze the ethical nature of conduct. Additionally, the course explores the ethical problems and challenges encountered in the various components of the justice system (law enforcement, litigation, sentencing, corrections, and policy making). Students will leave the course with an increased understanding and appreciation for the challenges associated with providing an effective justice system. While short in duration, the nature of a two-week three credit course is intensive. Diligence is required, and there is no room for procrastination.

Course Objectives

This course has two primary purposes: 1) to acquaint students with several traditional models for assessing the ethical nature of conduct, and develop an ability to apply the models; and 2) familiarize students with ethical issues which arise throughout the criminal justice system.

Method of Instruction

This course is presented in a dual classroom/web-based format. There is a Blackboard internet learning site for this course, and each student is enrolled in that site. Students should access the Blackboard course early and become familiar with its layout. You will be accessing much of the course instructional material through that site. The syllabus, assignments, and non-text readings are all available through this website.

This course also emphasizes classroom discussion of the ethical concepts and issues presented by the text and other assigned materials. Class discussions are meant to emphasize and apply key concepts encountered in your readings and assignments. Consequently, it is critical that students attend class regularly and come prepared, having read and thought about the appropriate reading assignments. Attendance will be recorded, as will discussion participation, and comprise a component of the final grades for the course. In grading participation, the quality, as well as the quantity, of participation will be considered.

All email communication between the instructor and the students will be addressed to the students’ UAF webmail accounts. Personal hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc. accounts will not
suffice. Students must set up their UAF webmail accounts by the second day of class. You will have access to all your classmates' emails through the Blackboard site.

During the course students will be assigned two writing assignments (none to exceed 10 single-spaced pages). These assignments are weighted considering both substance/content, correct grammar/punctuation, and proper citation and incorporation of source material. There will also be an oral presentation assignment at the end of week two. Finally, you will be given two exams (one each week) that cover the materials from the assigned readings, guest presentations, and class discussions.

Text


This text is required, but I encourage students to find the best deal possible through whatever source available to them. Please note that you must have your text prior to class beginning, as we will be discussing our first chapters on day one.

Grades

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<td>Assignments</td>
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Grading Scale

97% and 100% (A+)
94% and less than 97% (A)
90% and less than 94% (A-)
87% and less than 90% (B+)
84% and less than (87%) (B)
80% and less than 84% (B-)
77% and less than 80% (C+)
74% and less than 77% (C)
70% and less than 74% (C-)
67% and less than 70% (D+)
64% and less than 67% (D)
60% and less than 64% (D-)
0% and less than 60% (F)

Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule

Note: The Readings and Assignments are subject to change and/or be adjusted according to need as perceived by the instructor. We will discuss any changes to the schedule in class. **Students should come to the first day of instruction having read the first two chapters of the text.**
Day 1 (May 11) Exploratory thoughts on ethics, and traditional ethical theories: Chapter 1 (Ethics, Crime, and Justice: An Introductory Note to Students); and Chapter 2 (Utilitarian and Deontological Approaches to Criminal Justice Ethics)

Read Day 1 supplemental materials on Blackboard

Day 2 (May 12) Peacemaking approach to ethics: Chapter 3 (Peacemaking, Justice and Ethics); Chapter 14 (Restorative Justice and the Peacemaking Ethic); Differing Ethical Perspectives Inherent in the Criminal Justice System. Discussion of Crime Control vs. Due Process Models and Personal vs. Professional Ethics

Read Day 2 supplemental materials on Blackboard

Writing Assignment 1, due Saturday, May 16th by 5:00 p.m. via Blackboard electronic submission.

Day 3 (May 13) Differing Ethical Perspectives Inherent in the Criminal Justice System. Discussion of Crime Control vs. Due Process Models and Personal vs. Professional Ethics cont.'d; Ethical Issues in Policing: Chapter 4 (How Police Officers Learn Ethics); Chapter 6 (Using Ethical Dilemmas in Training Police):

Guest visit from law enforcement

Read Day 3 supplemental materials on Blackboard

Day 4 (May 14) Ethical Issues in Policing cont.'d: Chapter 7 (Police Ethics, Legal Proselytism, and the Social Order: Paving the Path to Misconduct); Chapter 5 (Deception in Police Interrogation):

Read Day 4 supplemental materials on Blackboard

Guest visit from Investigator regarding interrogation rules and practices
Day 5 (May 15)  
Ethics and the Courts: Chapter 8 (What Ever Happened to Atticus Finch? Lawyers as Legal Advocates and Moral Agents); Chapter 9 (Prosecutor Misconduct)

*Read Day 5 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

_Exam #1 - 12:30 p.m. in the classroom_

Day 6 (May 18)  
Ethics and the Courts cont.’d: Chapter 10 (Criminal Sentencing: Goals, Practices, and Ethics); Chapter 11 (Crime and Punishment: Punishment Philosophies and Ethical Dilemmas)

*Read Day 6 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

_Guest visit from Fairbanks prosecutor_

_Writing Assignment #2 - due on Saturday, May 23rd by 5:00 p.m. via Blackboard electronic submission_

Day 7 (May 19)  
Ethics and the Courts cont.’d: Chapter 12 (To Die or Not to Die: Morality, Ethics, and the Death Penalty); Ethical Issues in Corrections: Chapter 13 (Ethical Issues in Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections)

*Read Day 7 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

_Guest visit from local defense attorney_

Day 8 (May 20)  
Tour of Fairbanks Correctional Center and Lecture on Correctional Ethics - meet at FCC at 10:20 a.m.

Ethical Issues in Corrections cont.’d: Chapter 15 (Keeping an Eye on the Keeper: Prison Corruption and its Control); Chapter 16 (Ethics and Prison: Selected Issues)

*Read Day 8 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

Day 9 (May 21)  
The Future of the Justice System: Ethical Issues on the Horizon: *Readings to be announced*

*Read Day 9 supplemental materials on Blackboard*

_Exam #2 - 2:30 p.m. in class_
Day 10 (May 22)  Oral Presentations - see assignment on Blackboard for details

Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the office so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

Course Policies

a. Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will adversely impact your grade. Plagiarism consists of representing the work of another as your own. You are encouraged to use the work of others, but give appropriate credit to the “true” author through proper citation or use of quotations.

b. Classroom Conduct

Students are required to read and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Students are required to assist in fostering a suitable learning environment in the classroom. This means students are required to silence pagers and cell phones during class, not text during class, nor participate in any other activity that will distract those around you. Profanities, rude and other dismissive statements, gestures, or actions are inappropriate behavior. Open and vigorous debate of the topics is encouraged, but so is civility.

c. Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class and be prepared for thoughtful discussion of the materials assigned. Attendance and participation will be graded on a 100 point scale. Each absence reduces that score by 10 points. Additionally, if the professor believes a student is consistently unprepared for class discussion additional points will be deducted, in the instructor’s discretion, that matches the lack of participation.

d. Missed Exams and Quizzes

If a student is going to miss an exam or quiz, the student must arrange with the professor to take the exam/quiz at an alternate time before the date of the exam/quiz. Failure to do so may result in a zero score for that exam/quiz.
e. Late Assignments

Because of the compressed nature of this course, late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangement has been made with and agreed to by the professor.

c. The Fine Print

The order, presentation style, and manner of student assessment is subject to change as the course unfolds as determined by class needs judged, by the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced so students are continually notified of expectations.