

CJ 3205
PROFESIONAL ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

REQUIRED READING:

Williams, Christopher R. and Bruce A. Arrigo (2008) Ethics, Crime, and Criminal Justice. Pearson. Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey USA.

WebCT readings

In class handouts

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to introduce the student to the broad field of ethics and what this means for/to the Criminal Justice System. This course will introduce a number of concepts that will function as critical thinking 'tools'. We will unpack assorted philosophical ideas characteristic of 'ethics' and demonstrate how these ideas inform various criminal justice practices, policies, and controversies. These tools and ideas include the exploration of duty, obligation, and principle and think of ethics as the point where the self and the collective meet. These ideas and tools will enable you to recognize and assess a variety of moral and ethical concerns that arise in the study and practice of crime, law, and justice. This will include an examination of a social and organizational ethics of power including the role of policing in society, the ethical underpinnings of 'corrections', as well as an ethic of law. **This is not an applied course, but rather is intended to lead to an informed discussion and treatment of the moral context in which criminal justice actors, institutions, and policy are located.** *This course is taught with the pretense that philosophy and ethics is not about finding the answer, but is about talking and thinking about the meaning of concepts like justice, freedom, liberty AND re-defining the question(s) we ask.*

The primary goal of this course is to understand the types of justice and underlying moral and ethical systems that constitute our Canadian criminal justice system.

INSTRUCTION:

This course will be broken into three parts:

- 1) We will explore ethics – ask what it is, how it differs from most social science research, why we should study it. In this section we will examine both the epistemology and ontology of ethics which includes an examination the primary meta-ethical concepts and debates in the field of ethics.
- 2) The second part of the course will take us on a quick tour of ethical theories. Here we will examine the theoretical basis of criminal justice and the historical evolution of justice and ethical thought in Western philosophy.

- 3) The third part of the course will consist of an ethical examination of the current criminal justice system. Here we will unpack and critique justifications for contemporary criminal justice practice.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Evaluation will consist of take home assignments, in class mid-term and a final test. All evaluation mechanisms are cumulative.

Self Reflection Assignment	20% of final grade
Test #1	25% of final grade
Paper -outline	5% of final grade
Paper – final draft	25% of final grade
Test #2 Take Home Test	25% of final grade

Note:

All tests and assignments have scheduled dates and due dates. If students are unable to meet a scheduled date, they must inform the instructor prior to the (due) date and provide documentation to be considered for re-scheduling. This is for both tests and take home assignments. Re-scheduling is a difficult task and it is to be used as a last resort. In the absence of such documentation, students will be given a grade of zero. Please inform the instructor in person, by phone, or via email.

GRADES:

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 75-79%	C = 60-64%
A = 84-89%	B = 70-74%	D = 50-59%
A- = 80-83%	C+ = 65-69%	F = 0-49%

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

Disruptions due to excessive talking, cell phone use (including texting), or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of the class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy regarding **academic ethics** (i.e. cheating). It is outlined in The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar under the heading; Regulations and Policies.

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar>

WITHDRAWAL DATE:

The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty can be found online. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-withdrawal-schedules>

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (DS) at 786-9771 to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about DS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-disability>. All information about the disability is confidential.

**PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CJ 3205
COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS**

Topic	Reading
<p>Part One:</p> <p>1.1. Introducing ethics: CJ dilemmas 1.2. Why ethical inquiry is important 1.3. The specific importance of ethics to the CJS 1.4. Defining ethics – what it is and isn't 1.5 Ethical terminology and the sources of CJ ethics 1.6 Law and justice 1.7 Meta ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Determinism & free will ■ Relativity & universalism 	<p>Chapter 11 Chapter 1 Chapter 2</p> <p>WebCT Reading 1 WebCT Readings 2& 3</p> <p>Chapter 3 Chapter 4</p>
<p>Part Two: Ethical theories and the CJS</p> <p>A) Teleological ethics: Utilitarianism B) Deontological ethics: Kant/Duty C) Naturalistic school D) Virtue and care E) Social justice: Rawls</p>	<p>Chapter 8 Chapter 9 WebCT Reading 4 Chapter 10 WebCT Reading 5</p>
<p>Part Three: Issues and Dilemmas – the Ambivalent Reality of the CJS</p> <p>Ethical issues in policing; courts; corrections; policy making</p>	<p>These readings will be assigned in November to account for time left in the course and to accommodate class interests</p>

WebCT Readings

Reading One:

Souryal, S.S. (1998) *Understanding Criminal Justice Ethics: Sources and Sanctions*. In *Ethics in Criminal Justice: in Search of the Truth* (2nd ed). Anderson Publishing. Cincinnati, OH. Pp. 81-118

Reading Two:

Raphael, D. D. (2001) Concepts of Justice. Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-6

Reading Three:

Travis, LF (2002) *Criminal Sentencing: Honesty, Prediction, discrimination, and Ethics* in Braswell, McCarthy, and McCarthy (eds) *Justice, Crime, and Ethics*. Anderson Publishing. Cincinnati, OH.

Reading Four:

Souryal, S.S. (1998) *The Naturalistic School: Ethics of Egoism and Power*. In *Ethics in Criminal Justice: in Search of the Truth* (2nd ed). Anderson Publishing. – Cincinnati, OH. Pp. 157-166.

Reading Five:

Souryal, S.S. (1998) *Ethics of Social Justice*. In *Ethics in Criminal Justice: in Search of the Truth* (2nd ed). Anderson Publishing. Cincinnati, OH. Pp. 184-190.