PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
(CJ 465)  
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30 – 11:00 am, Room A-181

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed with particular emphasis on the study of Ethics, in general, and Criminal Justice Ethics and Professionalism, in particular. While the course does not seek to force a change in the basic beliefs of students or make participants more (or less) radical, the objectives of this course will be to learn: (a) the various theories of ethics and professionalism in order to enable them to: (b) examine their role as criminal justice agents, (c) apply these theories intelligently to criminal justice situations, (d) develop a sense of fairness and dignity on the job; and (e) be aware of the causes that could lead to corruption. A considerable segment of ethical theory will be presented in the first half of the course. This will be followed by applied ethics in the areas of police, prisons, and probation/parole.

This course is writing enhanced and will require three writing assignments.

Required Books


SYLLABUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Week of:</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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| January 15   | Introduction to the Ethics Course  
What it Means to be Ethical  
Sources of Studying Ethics  
The Imperative of Philosophy  
The Imperative of Justice  
The Relevance of Ethics  
The Role of Ethics in Society  
The Need for Studying Ethics in Criminal Justice | Souryal, Ch.1  
Handouts |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
<th>Handouts</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Acquainting Yourself with Ethics:</td>
<td>Souryal, Ch 1 – Ch 2</td>
<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>The art of Reasoning</td>
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<td>Intellect and Truth</td>
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<td>Definitions of Morality</td>
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<td>Ethics of Relativism</td>
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<td>Determining Goodness</td>
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<td>The Art of Moral Reasoning</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>Sources and Sanctions</td>
<td>Souryal, Ch 3</td>
<td>First writing assignment</td>
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<td>Ethics of Utilitarianism</td>
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<td>Profile of the Ethical Person</td>
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<td>The Philosophy of Wisdom</td>
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<td>Fallacious Reasoning</td>
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<td>Scope of Ethics</td>
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<td>Origins of Ethical Principles</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>Understanding Criminal Justice Ethics</td>
<td>Souryal, Ch 4</td>
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<td>Natural Law</td>
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<td>The Hierarchical Rule of Identities</td>
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<td>Constitutional Law and Provisions</td>
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<td>Professional Codes of Ethics</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>The Masters of Ethical Theory</td>
<td>Souryal, Ch 4</td>
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<td>The Stoicism School</td>
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<td>The Religious School</td>
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<td>Applications to CJ Theory &amp; Practice</td>
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February 19  
*Ethics of the Naturalistic School*  
Souryal, Ch 4  
Handouts  
Second writing assignment

**First-Mid Term Exam**

February 26  
*The Ambivalent Reality:*  
Souryal, Ch 5 & 6  
Handouts

- Unethical Themes in Criminal Justice Management
- Lying and Deception
- Institutional Lying
- When Lying Can Be Justified
- Lying in Police/Probation Prisons

March 4  
*The Ambivalent Reality*  
Handouts

- Egoism and the Abuse of Authority in CJ
- Types of Egoism
- Hobbesian Egoism
- Altruistic Egoism
- Authority and Power in CJ
- Limits of Power
- Ethics of Means and Ends

March 11  
Spring Break

March 18  
*The Ethics of Public Services*  
Souryal, Ch 9 & 10  
Handouts  
Third writing assignment

- The Dual Ethics of CJ Management
- Ethics of the Workplace
- Ethics and Policing
- The Police Prerogative to Abuse Power
- Police Corruption
- Hedonistic and Obligatory Corruption

March 25  
*The Ethics of Corrections*  
Souryal, Ch 11  
Handouts

- Life for Life Ethics
- The Morality of Punishment
- The Moral Justification for Prisons
- Ethics of Man and Corrections
- Corruption by Correctional Personnel

**Second-Mid Term Exam**
April 1  
*Practical Aspects of Ethics*  
Souryal, Ch 12  
Handouts  
Ethics of Probation & Parole  
Ethics of Community-Based Corrections  
Ethical Images in Probation & Parole

April 8  
*What Can Be Done*  
Souryal, Ch 13  
Handouts  
Restoring Ethics  
Ethical Lessons to Learn  
Practicing Ethics  
Teaching Ethics  
Ethics of Civility

April 15  
Movie: Gandhi

April 22  
Special Topics in Criminal Justice  
Class discussion

April 29  
Ethical discussion and lessons to be taught  
Souryal, Ch 14  
Handouts

May 1  
Course Review

**Final Exam (will be on the date scheduled by university policy.**  
*No excuses will be accepted*)

**Grading:**

- All three tests will have equal weight, 100 points each.  
- Writing assignments, proper behavior, and class participation, 100 points.  
- Tests will be multiple choice.  
- There will be no make-up exams.  
- Tests will not be accumulative and the final exam will not be comprehensive.  
- The final grade will be computed on the basis of the total score of the three tests divided by 3 and curved only if necessary in accordance with class performance.

**Attendance:**

1. Attendance is required. Exam questions will equally reflect materials from the book and from class notes and discussions.  
2. Roll will be taken regularly at the end of each session.  
3. If a student is absent more than four (4) times regardless of reason or excuse, his/her course grade will be dropped by one letter grade. Any following number of absences will be calculated in the same manner.  
4. Failure to sign the attendance roll sheet shall be counted as an absence.
**Class Conduct:**

1. Other than water, no food or drink will be permitted in the classroom.
2. iPods, pagers, and cellular telephones must be turned off prior to class.
3. Text messaging during class is not permitted.
4. You may use your laptop computer to take notes. Any other use will result in ejection from class.
5. Students shall refrain from reading newspapers or other reading materials or sleeping during class.
6. No student shall leave the classroom, without the instructor’s permission, until it is official adjourned.

**Test Make-ups:**

The mid-term and the final exam can be made-up only if the student’s absence was justifiable and approved by the instructor.

**Important Notices:**

1. Students are required to read their assignments before coming to class and be prepared to discuss the basic concepts and present their arguments.

2. This is a course in Ethics. Everyone (instructor included) will be expected to think ethically, talk ethically, and behave ethically!

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty

**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:**
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/811006.html

**SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS:**
http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:**
http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday