



1. Course Information

Course: Online Asynchronous

2. Course Instructor

Professor: Dr. Katherine Reid

Contact: kreid2@utep.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00, Education Building Room 111 – H or appointment (Zoom)

Office Phone: 915-747-7603

Communication: Please email me, do not use Blackboard messages to contact me.

3. Course Catalog Description

This is an ethics course for current and aspiring security professionals. The course gives a brief introduction to moral philosophy but focuses primarily on applied ethics relevant to many aspects of national security. There is a particular emphasis on military ethics, intelligence ethics, and bioethics. The main purpose of this course is to make future and current security professionals aware of and sensitive to ethical issues that they can encounter in their daily work and give them guidance in how to resolve these complicated moral issues.

4. Course Learning Objectives:

After completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Apply ethical frameworks to analyze moral problems in security contexts	Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving
2. Analyze the ethics of secrecy, including whistleblowing, leaks, and the balance between national security and democratic accountability	Social Responsibility, Leadership
3. Evaluate surveillance ethics, balancing security needs with privacy rights and civil liberties	Social Responsibility, Problem-Solving
4. Communicate ethical positions clearly through well-reasoned written arguments	Communication - Written, Leadership
5. Demonstrate ethical leadership by identifying security-related moral problems and advocating for responsible solutions	Leadership, Social Responsibility

5. Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be provided through Blackboard on a weekly basis. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before each week's discussion board to fully engage with course content.



6. Student Responsibilities

- Students should log on to Blackboard at least every other day to check for course updates and announcements.
- Students are expected to complete all readings, engage with course materials, and submit assignments by the due dates.
- To be successful in this online course, students must complete all required assignments and exams.
- Students should communicate any problems or questions as soon as possible. I want to help you succeed, but I cannot help if I don't know about issues you're facing.
- Students are responsible for ensuring they submit assignments in the correct format and by the deadline. Only what is submitted by the deadline will be graded (corrupted files, incomplete papers, drafts, etc. will not be accepted).
- Students are expected to check their UTEP email regularly, as all course communications will be sent to this address.
- Students should plan to spend approximately 9-12 hours per week on this course, including reading, writing, and exam preparation.

7. Course Policies

a. Attendance and Participation

This online course has no scheduled meeting times, but regular engagement is required. Students should log into Blackboard at least every other day and complete all readings and assignments by their due dates. Grades are based on completed coursework, not attendance. Students are responsible for staying current with the course schedule and seeking help when needed.

b. Late Work

All the listed assignments are due by their specific date and time. Extensions are granted on a per-case basis and requests for extensions must be made before the assignment due date. Late work will receive an immediate 10% late penalty and will increase by 10% per day until after 4 days when work will automatically be assigned a grade of 0.

c. AI Policy

Use of AI models is strictly prohibited in this course for any stage of your assignments, including idea generation, research, outlining, writing, or revising. Using AI tools makes it difficult for me to assess your individual work and provide meaningful feedback. Relying on AI for assignments undermines academic integrity, personal growth, and the learning process, as AI generated content often lacks depth, originality, and critical thinking. Any use of AI will be treated as academic dishonesty.

d. Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

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Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Community Standards for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

e. Extra Credit

There are no guaranteed extra credit opportunities in this course. Any extra credit opportunities will be shared with the entire class; there are no individual extra credit opportunities.

f. Resubmissions

There are no resubmissions or retakes or exams in this course.

g. Communication

I am available via email at kreid2@utep.edu (include "INSS 4303" in subject line). I will respond within 48 hours on weekdays (Monday - Friday, 9 am – 5 pm). I hold office hours on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:00pm in person. I am also available via appointment in person or by Zoom. Please note that emailing me right before a deadline may not guarantee feedback or a response in time, so please plan accordingly.

h. Course Drop

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registration and Records Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

i. Tech Requirements

This course is delivered through Blackboard. You will need a computer or laptop with reliable internet access and an updated web browser (Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox recommended). You will also need word processing software; Microsoft Office is available free through UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal.

If you encounter technical difficulties, contact UTEP Technology Support at <http://issweb.utep.edu/techsupport/>.

j. Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable



accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

k. Student Resources & Support

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit

https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.



l. Supportive Learning Environment

This online course is built on the belief that we learn best in a respectful, welcoming, and engaging environment. All interactions, whether in discussion boards or emails, should reflect open-minded discussion and mutual respect. Everyone brings unique experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives that enrich our learning community. When communicating online, remember that your words reach real people. Without the benefit of facial expressions and tone of voice, written messages can easily be misinterpreted. Always assume positive intent and practice patience with yourself and others. We are all lifelong learners, and learning happens when we are willing to listen to others and reflect on new ideas. Treat this online classroom as a professional space where intellectual discourse and mutual respect guide all interactions.

In this course, we will:

- Be kind and respectful, even when we disagree
- Stay curious and open to new perspectives
- Engage in thoughtful conversations that challenge and expand our thinking
- Support one another in learning and growing
- Communicate clearly and professionally in all course interactions
- Avoid sarcasm, inflammatory language, or personal attacks
- Respond constructively to different viewpoints



8. Grading Scale

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Below 60%

Final grades are a weighted average of assignment and exam grades. Final grades are not curved.

9. Course Assignments

Assignments are weighted by group; the weighting scheme will not change during the semester. In addition, this course uses APA style citations.

Assignments	Value	Total
5 Discussion Boards	6%	30%
3 Short Response Papers	10 %	30%
2 Exams	20%	40%
Total		100%

a. Discussion Boards

Students will participate in online discussions that explore ethical issues related to course readings. There are two types of discussion boards:

Type 1: Requires an initial post (due Friday @ 11:59 PM) and two substantive replies to classmates' posts (due Sunday @ 11:59 PM).

Type 2: Requires one longer post with citations (due Sunday @ 11:59 PM).

All discussion boards will permanently close 4 days after the due date.

b. Short Response Papers

Students will write three short response papers analyzing specific ethical cases or applying ethical frameworks to contemporary security issues. When assigned they are due Sunday @ 11:59 PM.

c. Exams

Students will complete two closed book exams during the semester. Each exam will assess understanding of ethical theories, key concepts, and application of frameworks to security scenarios. Exams will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

Exam 1: Available week 4; 90 minutes; covers weeks 1-4

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Exam 2: Available week 8; 90 minutes; covers weeks 5-8. *Must be completed by 11:59 PM on March 8. Since this is during exam week, there are no options to complete Exam 2 late.*

10. Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments Due
1	Jan 20 – 25	Introduction to Ethics in National Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board 1
2	Jan 26 – Feb 1	The Ethics of Secrecy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board 2
3	Feb 2 – 8	Military Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board 3• Short Response Paper 1
4	Feb 9 – 15	Intelligence Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam 1
5	Feb 16 – 22	Ethics of Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board 4• Short Response Paper 2
6	Feb 23 – Mar 1	Ethics of Espionage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board 5• Short Response Paper 3
7	Mar 2 – 8	The Future of Ethics in National Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam 2