

## **Criminal Justice Ethics**

**University of Texas at El Paso**

**CRIJ 3389, Summer 2018**

**Instructor-Miguel A. Rico**

Office Hours: By appointment at the UTEP CJ Department

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Class Days: MTWRF 11:30-1:50 Education Building, room 114

### **Course Description:**

The course will explore the articulation between criminal justice and ethics and will present ethical theories that will be applied to the elements of criminal justice.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will review and identify police ethics, corruption at all levels of the criminal justice systems, police investigations, interrogations, and lying within the police culture.
2. Identify and discuss the use of force and its different elements, arrest related deaths, police militarism, and police interactions with persons suffering from mental illness.
3. Learn the different types ethic terminologies and demonstrate how they are applied in the criminal justice system and its different cultures.
4. Above all students will analyze the ethical issues surrounding the criminal justice system and attempt to come up with solutions to those problems.
5. Cultural differences will be explored and students must respect each other's opinions and comments in order to have a vast understanding of other student's perspectives on ethical issues as they are applied in the criminal justice system.

## Course Requirements:

Students will be required to read each chapter, participate in class discussion and be ready to discuss current events in criminal justice as they occur.

**Course Text book:** Criminal Justice Ethics; Author: Cyndi Banks( 4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Exams: There will be 2 class exams and two written papers

The first paper will be in APA format and it will illustrate the 3 branches of ethics. You will use the terminology and theories which we will go over in the book.

The second paper will be also APA format and will illustrate the many possible solutions to the incarceration explosion. Students will use the terminology and theories illustrated in the book. Students are encouraged to use the Writing Center to assist them with their work.

Please refer to the Writing Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

There will be a quiz every Friday at the beginning of class, if you are late you will not be able to take the quiz and will not get credit for that quiz.

The first exam/mid term will cover chapters 1-8 and reading material and lecture.

The final exam will cover chapters 1 through 16 and reading material and lecture.

## Attendance:

Students are expected to come to all classes and be on time. Roll will be checked in every class meeting. Classes missed for legitimate reasons, such as illness, temporary duty, are excusable with an official written excuse; however the student must make up all missed work as follows: Typewritten chapter outlines/ comments and/or observations on the material missed may be turned in within the next two class meetings following an absence. A failing grade will be recorded for students who do not make up excused absences or for material missed due to un-excused absences. Three un-excused absences and the student will be dropped from the course.

## UTEP Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- a. Students who drop a course within the first 2 weeks ***before the "official census date,"*** (July 13) the course will not appear on the transcript and doesn't count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b. Dropping a course ***after the official census date, but before the "course drop date"*** (July 27) will generate a "W" in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a "W" does not lower your GPA. However, this type of drop counts against your 6 drop limit.
- c. If the course is dropped ***after the "course drop date"*** or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- d. UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A "W" will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an "F" will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e. If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify Mr. Miguel Rico at [marico42@utep.edu](mailto:marico42@utep.edu) . Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

Exams and will be based both on lecture and assigned reading materials.

Grading distribution:

The final course grade will be determined using the average of the following metrics:

Exam one 25% Final 25% Quiz's 25% Written Papers 25%

The following will be used to assign course letter grades:

A :90-100    B: 80-89    C:70-79    D:60-69

F: Below 60 or three or more un-excused absences

There will be no curve used in the grading nor will extra work be accepted for credit, except as previously described for participation credit for absences.

Academic Honesty:

Submitting someone else's work as your own or not performing your own work at exam time will not be tolerated. A student, whom the instructor deems is being dishonest, will be quietly advised and if the departure of dishonesty is not immediate, the director of the Criminal Justice Department will be advised in writing. The Criminal Justice Program will abide strictly with College Policy. Anyone found cheating on an examination or a paper in

this course will be reported to the Dean, and the Director will work towards the student's dismissal from school.

Note for students with disabilities:

Alternative formats of this syllabus are available upon request to students with disabilities. Please contact the instructor. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner.

**Cell Phones and Lap Tops:** Students are advised to turn off cell phones while in class or put them on the vibrate mode. Lap tops may be used in class but students are encouraged to have them in a silent mode.

The book has excellent references to the current literature cited and explains in detail the theory, hypothesis and research behind each chapter. The book explains to the student what to be aware of and enables the student to deal with what research is about and what a student should be able to do upon completion of the course.

Crime Prevention is a multi-disciplinary endeavor and any student intending to go into any portion of the field should be able to apply the sociological, psychological, political, criminal law and procedural law aspects in order to achieve success.

From law enforcement, probation, correctional, counseling, to employment as a lawyer, a student must deal with sociology, psychology, politics and an understanding of legal and procedural principles. Steven Lab provides excellent material on these and many other subjects.

#### Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments, by Week

**July 10** Introduction: Class Format, policy and syllabus distribution, expectations and requirements.

**July 11** Chapter 1 Discussion and review

**July 12** Chapter 1 Quiz,

July 13	Chapter 2 Discussion and Review
July 16	Chapter 2 Quiz
July 17	Chapter 3 Discussion and Review
July 18	Chapter 3 Quiz
July 19	Chapter 4 Discussion and Review
July 20	Chapter 4 Quiz
July 23	Chapter 5 Discussion and Review
July 24	Chapter 5 Quiz
July 25	Chapter 6 Discussion and Review
July 26	Chapter 6 Quiz, Midterm Review
July 27	Midterm Test, Chapter 7, 8, 9 Discussion and Review
July 30	Chapter 9 Quiz, Chapter 10, 11 Discussion and Review
July 31	Chapter 11 Quiz, Chapter 12,13 Discussion and Review
Aug 1	Chapter 13 Quiz, Chapter 14, 15 Discussion and Review
Aug 2	Chapter 15 Quiz
Aug 3	Chapter 16, 17 Discussion and Review, and Final

Schedule is subject to change at the Professors discretion.

