

Criminal Justice Ethics

University of Texas at El Paso

CRIJ 3389, Fall Semester, 2018

Instructor-Miguel A. Rico

Office Hours: By appointment at the UTEP CJ Department

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Class Days: M W 10:30-11:50 Liberal Arts Building, room 303

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 Textbook: Criminal Justice Ethics; Author: Cyndi Banks(4th 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. Again you 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/midterm 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 officially 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 unexcused absences. Three unexcused 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,"* (Aug. 31) 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"* (Nov. 3) 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 . 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 unexcused 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. Laptops 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.

Criminal Justice ethics is a multidisciplinary 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 ethical legal and procedural principles. The book provides excellent material on these and many other subjects.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments, by Week

Aug 27 Introduction: Class Format, policy, and syllabus distribution, expectations and requirements.

Aug 29 Chapter 1 Discussion and review

Sept 3 (Labor day/no classes) Read Chapter 2

Sept 5 Chapter 2 Review/Quiz 1

Sept 10 Chapter 3 Discussion/Quiz 2

Sept 12 Chapter 3 Review

Sept 17 Chapter 4 Discussion/Quiz 3

Sept 19 Chapter 4 Review

Sept 24 Chapter 5 Discussion/Quiz 4

Sept 26 Chapter 5 Review

Oct 1 Chapter 6 Discussion/Quiz 5

Oct 3 Chapter 6 Review

Oct 8 Chapter 7 Discussion (Columbus day)/Theory Paper

Oct 10 Chapter 7 Review

Oct 15 Chapter 8 Discussion/Quiz 7

Oct 17 Midterm Exam

Oct 22	Chapter 9 Discussion
Oct 24	Chapter 9 Review
Oct 29	Chapter 10 Discussion/Quiz 9
Oct 31	Chapter 10 Review
Nov 2	(Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline)
Nov 5	Chapter 12 Discussion/Quiz 10
Nov 7	Chapter 12 Review
Nov 12	Chapter 13 Discussion/Quiz 10.6
Nov 14	Chapter 13 Review
Nov 19	Chapter 14 Review
Nov 21	Chapter 15 Discussion/Quiz 14
Nov 23	Thanksgiving-no classes
Nov 26	Chapter 16 Discussion/Finals review
Nov 29	
Dec 5	Final
Dec 7	Dead Day

Schedule is subject to change at the Professors discretion.