**Course: CRCJ 2335 – Ethics and the Criminal Justice Systems Professor: Arthur Vasquez**

**Term:** Fall 2015

**Meetings: T / Th**: 2:00pm - 3:20pm; UH 104

**Professor’s Contact Information**

**Office Location UH 306**

**Email Address** [avasquez@uta.edu](mailto:avasquez@uta.edu)

**Contact:** (817) 272-5673

**Office Hours** M & W 10am – 11:00am or by appointment

T & Th 12:30- 2:30 or by appointment

**Other Information** Always put “CRCJ 3338” in your email subject line for a prompt response!

**Course Description:**

This course is an examination of the criminal justice system through an ethical lens. An ethical issue in practice and in theory, explores ethical dilemmas, and proposes means through which criminal justice professionals might resolve ethical issues and dilemmas. The course will examine the standards and professional responsibilities of criminal justice practitioners, including law enforcement officers, officers of the courts, and juvenile and correctional officials.

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Students will become familiar with the leading theories and foundations of ethics.
* Students will become familiar with various ethical challenges and dilemmas that criminal justice professionals (including police, youth, and correctional officers) will encounter in their work.
* Students will acquire principles and tools to help them successfully resolve these challenges and dilemmas.

**Required Textbook and Materials**

Banks, C. (2013). *Criminal justice ethics: Theory and practice* (3rd ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

ISBN: 9781412995450

***Note***: In addition to the required text; handouts and journal articles **WILL**be used to further enhance student’s learning.

* ***Additional Journal articles will be posted on Blackboard***

**Course Requirements**

**Reading should be done by the dates indicated.**

**Exams:** There will be **three (3) exams this semester**. **Each exam will be worth 100 points** and will be comprised of 50 questions: multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions which will be based on class lecture and assigned readings. The test will cover all of the information covered in the course readings, lecture, presentations, and class discussions.

At the discretion of the instructor, any student who arrives more than 10 minutes late for an exam may not be allowed to take that exam. **No one arriving to an exam after the first person has left the exam will be allowed to take that exam.**

The dates noted on the syllabus for the first two exams are tentative and are subject to change – any changes will be announced in class. The final exam has been set by the university.

Makeup Exam Policy

Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a **university recognized excused absence**, **which the professor must be informed of at the beginning of the semester**. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illnesses with a doctor’s note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences), participation in official university activities. Final decision of excused absences is left to the discretion of the professor.

In most instances, students will be required to provide written documentation for your absence. In addition, you MUST talk with me prior to the date of the exam in order to schedule a makeup. All makeup exams MUST be scheduled within one week of the original exam.

***Note****:* All makeup exams will be in essay format.

**Assignment (Paper OR Presentation):**

You have the choice of doing EITHER a 5-7 page paper or a 10-15 minute power point presentation on some aspect of Ethics within justice system (i.e. courts, police, corrections, etc…). You may select an Ethics justice topic, covered in class that you are interested in. More will be discussed on 2nd class day.

**Assignment is worth 100 points.**

**Attendance/Participation:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required; therefore, attendance will NOT be taken. However, students are encouraged to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for ALL material covered in class, whether you’re in class or not. Therefore, it is advised that you make a friend in class who would be willing to share class notes with you and you with them.

**Grading Criteria**

There are a total of 400 points which may be earned throughout the course. Students are encouraged to maintain a record of their grades.

***Note:*** I will NOT curve nor barter your grade at the end of the semester.

Final Grades Your earned points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

Grade Point Range

A 360 - 400

B 320 - 459

C 280 - 319

D 240 - 279

F 239 or less

**Lectures**

Power Point presentations for each chapter in your textbook will be posted prior to the lecture of each topic. Some of the power point presentations will only be outlines for the lecture. **Students are expected to download and print out these materials from eLearning prior to class**. This practice will facilitate more active participation in class lectures, as students will only have to record additional information given or make personal notes about the material!

Additional material will be added to these lectures and I will highlight material that will be relevant for your exams, so I strongly encourage you to attend class. Students are required to check eLearning for class announcements and course materials several times per week and prior to class so that you are prepared.

Please note that while I allow students to use laptops to take notes during class lectures, ANY abuse of this privilege will result in ALL computers being banned during class time. PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR COMPUTER TO ACCESS THE INTERNET, CHAT, CHECK EMAIL, TEXT FRIENDS, WORK ON OTHER CLASSES, watch media, do email searches, watch movies, OR DO ANYTHING THAT IS UNRELATED TO THIS CLASS--PERIOD. Please take this warning seriously. Students who miss classes are responsible for getting any information and notes in person from a classmate.

**Academic Calendar**

***Note:*** Timelines contained in the syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**DATE TOPIC**

**READING**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week of 8/27 |  | |
| Friday | *8/28* | *First Day of Semester* |
|  |  | Introduction – Course requirements and syllabus |
|  |  | Additional Readings Information |
| Week of 8/31 – 9/4 |  |  |
| Tuesday | 9/1 | Assignment Review / Sign Up / Selection  For next class read Ch. 1 |
|  |  |  |
| Thursday | 9/3 | Importance of Ethics in CJ Chapter 1  Project Selection cont. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**DATE TOPIC**

**READING**

Week of 9/7 – 9/11

Tuesday9/8Ethics and the PoliceChapter 2

Thursday 9/10 Ethics and the Police (Cont.) Chapter 2

Week of 9/14 – 9/18

Tuesday 9/15 Racial Discrimination in the CJ System Chapter 3

Thursday 9/17 Racial Discrimination in the CJ System Chapter 3

Week of 9/21 – 9/25

Tuesday 9/22 Lawyers and Ethics Chapter 4

Thursday 9/24 Lawyers and Ethics Chapter 4

Week of 9/28 – 10/2

Tuesday 9/29 Purpose of Criminal Punishment Chapter 5

Thursday 10/1 Catch up and Review

Week of 10/5 – 10/9

Tuesday 10/6 **Exam #1** Chapters 1 -5

Thursday 10/8 Ethics in Corrections Chapter 6

Week of 10/12 – 10/16

Tuesday 10/13 Ethics in Corrections (Cont) Chapter 6

Thursday 10/15 Ethics of CJ Policy Making Chapter 7

Week of 10/19 – 10/23

Tuesday 10/20 Ethics & the “War on Terrorism” Chapter 8

Thursday 10/22 Media Ethics & CJ Chapter 9

Week of 10/26 – 10/30

Tuesday 10/27 **Exam #2 (Chapters 6-9)** (for next class read Chapter 10)

Thursday 10/29 Application of Ethical Theories (pgs. 258-262)

Duty and Principle Chapter 10

Week of 11/2 – 11/6

Tuesday 11/3 Considering the Consequences Chapter 11

Thursday 11/5 Importance of Character Chapter 12

Week of 11/9 – 11/13

Tuesday 11/10 Egoism, Pleasure, and Indifference Chapter 13

Thursday 11/12 A Sense of Justice Chapter 14

Possible option for Presentations

Week of 11/16 – 11/20

Tuesday 11/17 **NO Class** American Society of Criminology Conference

Thursday 11/19 **NO Class** American Society of Criminology Conference

Week of 11/23 – 11/27

Tuesday **11/24 No Class**

Thursday **11/26 No Class – Fall Break**

Week of 11/30 -12/4

Tuesday 12/1 **NO CLASS** - Work on Assignment (Either paper or presentation)

Thursday 12/3 Presentations

Week of 12/7 – 12/11

Tuesday 12/8 Presentations

Review for Final Exam

Wednesday 12/10 No Class – Study for Final

**Final Exam**

**Tuesday 12/15 2:00pm – 4:30pm**

**Lectures**

Power Point presentations for each chapter in your textbook will be posted prior to the lecture of each topic. Some of the power point presentations will only be outlines for the lecture. **Students are expected to download and print out these materials from eLearning prior to class**. This practice will facilitate more active participation in class lectures, as students will only have to record additional information given or make personal notes about the material! Additional material will be added to these lectures and I will highlight material that will be relevant for your exams, so I strongly encourage you to attend class. Students are required to check eLearning for class announcements and course materials several times per week and prior to class so that you are prepared.

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**Email Use**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**\*If you need to email me, please do so directly from your UTA email and NOT in eLearning OR from YOUR PERSONAL email**

**\* Make sure to IDENTIFY the class that you are taking with me in the subject line.**

**General Decorum**: Part of becoming an educated person is the ability to consider (and sometimes endure) ideas counter to your own. In this course, we will discuss topics which bear directly on the core principles of our government and society. There is likely to be disagreement. That disagreement notwithstanding, students are required to treat each other (and the instructor) with respect and civility.

**Grade Grievances**

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#graduatetext>

**Disability Services**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Drop Policy**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>). **LAST DAY to DROP with a ‘W’ is NOVEMBER 4th, 2015**

**Title IX**

The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity**

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services Available**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Final Review Week:**  A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Student Feedback Survey:**  At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Librarian to Contact**: John Dilliard is the Criminology and Criminal Justice Librarian. He can be reached at (817) 272-7517.

**Writing Center**

The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.