

Syllabus
CRIJ 3310 section 001
Spring 2024
Tuesday and Thursday 930-1050am
RBN 3041

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(The best way to contact me is by using the messaging function in Canvas.)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30pm-2pm and by appointment. Furthermore, I am available throughout the week, so do not hesitate to send me a message and we can arrange an in-person office session or one via Zoom.

Course Overview: The purpose of this course is to expose you to the complex problems criminal justice students and practitioners confront in the criminal justice system. You will become familiar with the considerations that determine ethical thought and how it pertains to decision making in the criminal justice system. You will be able to intellectually discuss the role of the police, the law, and corrections within the context of ethical dilemmas. This is especially relevant for you today as you prepare yourself for a career in the criminal justice system or as a student of the criminal justice system.

Student Learning Outcomes:

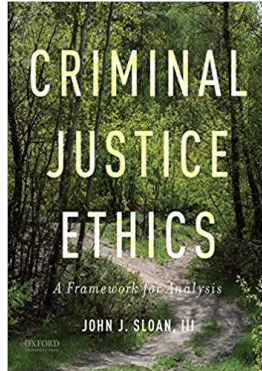
1) Justify reasons moral and ethical actions and decisions are essential to individuals and organizations affiliated with the criminal justice system.
2) Compare and contrast deontological ethical systems, teleological ethical systems, and ethics of virtue.
3) Summarize the major approaches of moral development.
4) Demonstrate proficiency with the APA documentation style, 7 th ed.
5) Summarize the ethical issues individuals in law enforcement confront.
6) Describe the complexity of police decisions as it relates to the dilemmas police officers are confronted with daily in their decision making.
7) Summarize the ethical issues individuals in the legal profession confront.
8) Explain the ethical issues affiliated with corrections policy in the United States
9) Summarize the dilemmas individuals working in corrections confront.
10) Synthesize the complexity of solving moral dilemmas as a criminal justice professional.

Overall “Big Question” we will be focused on all semester: How can the criminal justice system achieve an acceptable standard of justice in the United States? (This is a question that transcends this course and relates to all of the courses I teach; and can be used for you to be an objective and critical thinker in all criminal justice courses).

Main concepts/questions: I will keep the Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice course content revolving around (1) What are the ethical dilemmas in the criminal justice system and how does it relate to the overall big course question? (2) What must the police, court personnel, and corrections employees continuously consider when striving towards ethical decision making? And, (3) What are the challenges criminal justice practitioners are confronted with daily that impinge their ability to achieve ethical decisions?

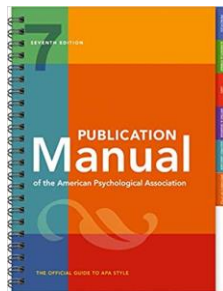
Required Textbooks and Readings:

Sloan, J. J. (2019). *Criminal Justice Ethics: A Framework for Analysis*. New York, NY: Oxford Press. ISBN: 978-0-190-63913-6.



Recommended:

APA. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8



Assignments and weights/percentage values

1. Getting Started Module Assignments (Padlet posting and Quiz)	5%
2. Chapter Quizzes	20%
3. In Class Learning Activities	10%
4. Post Class Reflections (Discussion Boards)	15%
5. Reflection Papers (each worth 15%)	30%
6. Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale:

A	90% or greater
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	below 60%

**keep in mind, I round up. This means a 89.45, rounds to a 89.5, which rounds to a 90.0

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Unfortunately, illnesses, deaths in the family, or other traumatic events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 24 hours of the event **and** provide documentation, I will be happy to give you a make-up quiz or extend an assignment deadline.

The general rule is I will not accept any late assignments. Please pay particular attention to the due dates for each assignment.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class session. There will be important information being discussed in class that you will need to ensure your success in this course. So, unless you are ill or have a family situation that precludes your attendance (but please let me know if you will not be in class), you are expected to be in class. It is important you read the reading assignments prior to class and arrive ready to discuss the material. Again, I recognize extenuating circumstances arise that can make it difficult to attend each and every class session. In other words, life happens! If a serious family emergency occurs, please let me know as soon as the event occurs or within 24 hours.

UT Tyler does have a [Class Attendance policy](#) in the catalog.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

Class Assignments:

You are expected to be in the classroom every day we have class. Why is this important? There will be activities that you will receive credit for, but you can only receive the credit if you are in the classroom. There will be several in class type assessments during the semester. Two of the lowest scores for these will be dropped (so you do not have to worry about missing one as up to two will be dropped). Exceptions are provided if you are representing the university (such as attending a conference or engaging in a university approved/sponsored organization that precludes you from being present in class).

Chapter Quizzes:

Each week you will be responsible for reading the chapter prior to our Tuesday class session and taking the chapter quiz. I tried not have these accountability measures, but quickly learned (again) that if I don't have students take an assessment for the reading material, many students will not read the material—and are thus, ill prepared for classroom learning. Just look at the weekly modules in Canvas and/or the schedule of events in this syllabus to see which weeks you are responsible for a quiz. Make sure the quizzes are completed prior to our Tuesday class, thus, prior to 930am. You have two opportunities to take the quiz and only the highest score will be recorded for your grade. Read, study, and take the quiz and you will be better prepared to learn during our class sessions.

Post Class Reflections (Discussion Boards):

There are a few post-class reflections via discussion boards (Weeks 1, 4, and 11). These will help me review your thoughts, your writing, ability to paraphrase and incorporate reading into your argument, and APA intext and reference compliance. These are due on the Friday (at 11:59pm) on the week each is assigned. Make sure you complete at least a 250 word initial post and reply to at least two other students. You are also required to paraphrase the readings using APA and provide an APA compliant reference. All your postings in each and every discussion board

requires at least one in-text citation (this means all your initial postings and all of your replies to other students' postings).

Reflection Papers:

There will be two reflection papers that you will prepare throughout the semester, they are due on Friday, no later than 11:59pm as stipulated in the Calendar. You will be required to complete a written assignment/reflection by incorporating course content along with at least two sources with one being a peer-reviewed source you identify in the library--as applicable for your argument. The reflections will be based upon documentaries you will be exposed to during the semester during Weeks 9 and 13. Your papers must be a minimum of two to three full pages, two sources with at least one peer-reviewed source, double spaced, one inch margins, using Times New Roman with 12 pt. font, and documented in the 7th edition to the APA style (all elements). *[The page minimum does not include the title page and reference page]*

Final Exam:

There will be one (1) examination during the semester. The exam will occur in class according to the University Final Exam Schedule that will be posted later in the semester.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

This is a tentative course schedule

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | January 16-21
"What is Ethics About?"
Reference material: Chapter 1
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class discussion
Discussion Board is due by Friday at 11:59pm! |
| Week 2 | January 22-26
"Learning How to Think within an Ethical Construct"
Reference material: Chapter 2 |
| Week 3 | January 29-February 2
"The Ethical World of the CJ Practitioner"
Reference material: Chapter 3
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities

*****January 29 is Census Day |
| Week 4 | February 5- 9
"Thinking Constitutionally"
Reference material: Chapter 4
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities
Discussion Board is due by Friday at 11:59pm! |
| Week 5 | February 12-16
"Overcoming the Ethical Conundrum"
Reference material: Chapter 5
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities |

Week 6 February 19-23
"Let's Get Real"
Reference Material: None
Documentary on Eyewitness Testimony
Guest Speaker: Colleen Pulpan
Learning Activities: Discussion and Class Activities

Week 7 February 26-March 1
"Thinking about Ethics and Policing"
Reference material: Chapter 6
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities

Week 8 March 4-8
"The Application of Ethics for Policing"
Reference material: Chapter 7
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities

March 11-15—Spring Break, thus—NO CLASSES!!

Week 9 March 18-22
"Reflecting on Policing and Ethics"
Reference material: None
Learning Activities: Movie on Police on Tuesday
Online Class Activity on Thursday
First Reflection Paper is due by Friday at 11:59pm

Week 10 March 25-29
"Ethics in a Legal Construct and Searching for Meaning: An Application"
Reference material: Chapter 8
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities

******Last day to Withdraw from one or more classes is March 25**

Week 11 April 1-5
"The Ethics of Punishment"
Reference material: Chapter 9
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities
Discussion Board is due by Friday at 5pm!

Week 12 April 8-12
"The Ethics of Incarceration"
Reference material: Chapter 10
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities

- Week 13 April 15-19
"Community-Based Corrections and Ethics"
Reference material: Chapter 11
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities
Second Reflection Paper is due by Friday at 11:59pm
- Week 14 April 22-26
"The Scientific Ethical Frontier"
Reference material: Chapter 12
Learning Activities: Lecture and Class Activities
Final Exam on Thursday, April 25
- Week 15 April 29-May 3
"Final Consultation"