CRJ 222
Ethics in Criminal Justice

Course Description

CRJ 222 Ethics in Criminal Justice 3 Cr.
This course is a study of the application of ethical theories to the criminal justice profession.

3 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus

The student will be introduced to the fundamentals of ethical behavior as it relates to the criminal justice system.

Text and References

Professional Ethics in Criminal Justice; Being ethical when no one is looking;

Optional

Movie

Courageous (2011), Directed by Alex Kendrick (Starring Alex Kendrick, Ken Bevel)
Now You See Me (2013), Directed by Louis Leterrier (Starring Common, Dave Franco)
The Visit (1964), Directed by Bernhard Wicki (Starring Ingrid Bergman, Anthony Quinn)

Course Goals

The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Develop the ability to understand the essence of good character
2. Distinguish between morals, values, and ethics

3. Recognize the concept of moral relativism

4. Understand the importance of critical thinking to ethics

5. Increase awareness of the connection between etiquette and ethics

6. Appreciate the hierarchy of goods

7. Distinguish the difference between real and apparent goods

8. Recognize the distinctions among virtue ethics, stoicism, and hedonism

9. Increase understanding of the linkage between the moral virtues in pursuing real goods

10. Develop skills in applying moral virtues and real goods in evaluating ethical dilemmas

11. Understand the nature of deontological ethics

12. Recognize the centrality of duties versus inclinations in Kantian ethics

13. Increase the ability to isolate the categorical imperative from any set of facts presented in an ethical dilemma

14. Distinguish the categorical imperative from the practical imperative and hypothetical imperatives

15. Understand why lying is never permitted using the ethics of formalism

16. Understand the nature of teleological ethics

17. Recognize the centrality of the principle of utility in the ethics of John Stuart Mills

18. Develop an appreciation of why utilitarianism is sometimes called consequentialism

19. Increase the ability to distinguish objective ways to assess the total happiness produced by an action

20. Appreciate criticisms of utilitarianism as a way to judge ethical action

21. Understand the differences between the consensus view and conflict view of criminal law
22. Appreciate the ethical issues posed by “quality of life offenses”

23. Distinguish the major perspectives on crime causation

24. Develop an appreciation for the linkage between Kohlberg’s theory of moral development and ethics

25. Increase understanding of Gilligan’s ethics of caring

26. Understand how Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Bill of Rights provide the principles for police stops, searches, arrests, and interrogations.

27. Appreciate the threshold of “stop and frisk” and its differences from probable cause in evaluating situations for police

28. Recognize the differences among nonfeasance, misfeasance, and malfeasance in assessing police decisions

29. Develop an appreciation for the different causes and circumstances of police corruption

30. Evaluate the relationship between codes of ethics and ethical principles in producing consistent conduct

31. Appreciate John Rawls’ theory of justice and the greatest equal liberty” principle

32. Recognize the importance of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct for prosecution and defense conduct

33. Understand what a “mob lawyer” is and the proper role of a defense attorney in criminal cases

34. Assess the scope of a prosecutor’s discretion and its implication for ethical conduct

35. Evaluate the nature of plea bargaining and the ethical dilemma it creates

36. Understand the ethical underpinnings of sentencing decisions

37. Understand the distinctions among the four purposes of criminal sanctions

38. Recognize the issue of disparity in sentencing
39. Assess the issue of correctional ethics and the situations in which ethical decisions become crucial in correctional settings

40. Understand how corporal punishment and innovative sentences can be evaluated from an ethical perspective

41. Distinguish the issue of punishment under the Eight Amendment

42. Understand the nature of civil remedies for ethical misconduct

43. Recognize the double standards often placed on public officials regarding liability for conduct that is accepted when acting as private citizens

44. Evaluate the ethical dilemmas posed by sex offender notifications laws

45. Determine information need

46. Observe copyright laws

47. Cite resources

48. Use APA Format

49. Implement writing process

50. Formulate effective topic sentences

51. Incorporate relevant details

52. Compose well developed paragraphs

53. Conduct academic research

54. Hone critical thinking skills

55. Integrate scholarly research

Student Contributions

Each student will spend at least 6 hours per week preparing for class. Attendance is critical in this class. There will be a midterm and a final exam. Each student will critique 3 videos. It is the responsibility of the student to take the exam and complete all activities within the
specified due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be discussed in class
and students will be accountable for such changes.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Technical College of the Lowcountry is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all
qualified applicants for admissions or employment without regard to race, gender, national
origin, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable
accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with
disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at
(843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students
to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student’s responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic
misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the
Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the TCL Student Handbook, the Division Office,
and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE

The College’s statement of policy indicates that students must attend **ninety percent of total class hours**
or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start
  of the semester must be dropped from the class for **NOT ATTENDING**.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in **and** communicate with the
  instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate
  attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days
  from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for **NOT ATTENDING**.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

- In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops
  attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork.
  Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

- When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy.
  The instructor MUST withdrawal the student with a grade of “W”, “WP”, or “WF” depending on the date
  the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student’s progress up to the last date of attendance
  or
  - under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class,
    allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented
    at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.
Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

A copy of TCL’s STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL) is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

For all online courses, students must complete an assignment designated by the instructor during the first week of classes. The instructor will drop the student from the course if the initial assignment is not completed.

Instructors will withdraw students from the class when 90% attendance is not maintained. Attendance in an online course is defined by regular course access and by timely completion of assignments as required by the instructor. Each student will be expected to access the web class at least once a week and complete 90% of assignments on time. Additional access is encouraged and may be necessary for successful completion of classes.

Failure to log in and complete assignments will result in the student being withdrawn from the course. The instructor will assign a grade of “W,” “WP,” or “WF” based upon the student’s academic standing as the last date of attendance, which is the last login. Students are responsible for any financial matters associated with an administrative withdrawal. If a fails to email the instructor (using the my.tcl.edu email account) requesting to be dropped from the course and has not submitted the initial assignment required during the first week of class, the instructor will assign a “Never Attended” code in the student information system (web-advisor) no later than ten calendar days after the first day of the class. Students who are dropped as a result of never attending the course are still responsible for all fees associated with the course.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVM 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. http://www.tcl.edu/current-students/text-alert

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE ALERT

Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to http://www.tcl.edu/current-students/text-alert
Course Evaluation

Your performance objective and exams will be translated to points and the points to grades. There are 100 possible points and grades will be earned as follows:

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

Tests and Quizzes

The midterm and final examinations are comprehensive examinations and consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and fills in the blank type questions. They are valued at 10 points each for 20% of the final grade.

Video Critique

Each student will critique 3 videos and identify any ethical dilemma. The critiques are valued at 20% each for a total of 60% of the final grade. Guidelines TBP

Assignments

Each student will be required to participate in classroom exercise and discussion board. Classroom exercises/discussion board is valued at 20% of final grade.

SAFETY ADDENDUM

Purpose

The purpose of this safety addendum is to provide each student with safety guidelines during an incident, emergency, or disaster at TCL. In addition, it provides students guidelines for lockdown procedures, evacuation procedures, and active shooter.

Definitions

An incident is any event, potential or actual, that may impact normal operations but has no immediate health or life threatening consideration or serious effect on the overall functional capacity of the College. An event of this nature should be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Administrative Services. Also notify the off-site campus administrator if applicable.

An emergency is any incident, potential or actual, which may endanger life or health or which affects an entire building or buildings, and will disrupt the overall operations of the College. Outside emergency services will probably be required, as well as major efforts from campus support services. Major policy considerations and decisions will usually be required from the college administration during times of crises. An emergency should be reported immediately by directly using 911 if life or health/injury considerations exist and then to the Office of the President or Vice President for Administrative Services as quickly as possible. Also notify the off-site campus administrator if applicable.

A disaster is any event or occurrence that has taken place and has seriously impaired or halted the operations of the College. In some cases, mass personnel casualties and severe property damage may be sustained. A coordinated effort of all campus-wide resources is required to effectively control the situation. Outside emergency services will be essential. In all cases of disaster, an Emergency Control Center will be activated, and the appropriate support and operational plans will be executed. The
disaster should be immediately reported, first by calling 911 and then to the Office of the President or Vice President for Administrative Services. Also notify the off-site campus administrator if applicable.

**Types of Emergencies**
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Fire
- Biochemical or Radiation Spill
- Explosion/Bomb
- Downed Aircraft (crash which directly impacts campus operations)
- Utility Failures
- Violent or criminal behavior
- Psychological Crisis

**Procedures**

**Active Shooter**

**Building Evacuation**
1. Building evacuations occur when an alarm sounds and/or upon notification by Security or the Emergency Director.
2. When the building evacuation alarm is activated during an emergency, individuals should exit according to the building evacuation plan and alert others to do the same.
3. Once outside, individuals should proceed to a clear area that is at least 500 feet away from the affected building. Streets, fire lanes, hydrant areas and walkways should be kept clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
4. Individuals should not return to an evacuated building unless told to do so by Security or the Emergency Director.
5. Individuals should assist persons with disabilities in exiting the building. Elevators are reserved for disabled persons

**Campus Evacuation**
1. A uniformed Security Guard, the Emergency Director, or an Emergency Resource Team member will announce evacuation of all or part of the campus grounds.
2. All persons (students and staff) are to immediately vacate the campus, or in the case of a partial evacuation relocate to another part of the campus grounds as directed.

**Lockdown**
1. Clear the halls
2. Report to the nearest classroom/office
3. Assist those needing special assistance
4. Ensure classroom/office doors are closed and locked
5. Turn off lights
6. Stay away from doors and windows (out of the line of sight)
7. BE QUIET and follow instructor’s directions
8. Silence cell phones
9. Wait for the “All Clear” before leaving
Course Schedule

Revised: October 8, 2019