

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: ADJ 133

Credits: 3

Course Title: Ethics and the Criminal Justice Professional

Course Description: Examines ethical dilemmas pertaining to the criminal justice system, including those in policing, courts and corrections. Focuses on some of the specific ethical choices that must be made by the criminal justice professional. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a better understanding of how moral and ethical decisions are a part of the everyday decision-making of criminal justice professionals and how many of these perplexing decisions challenge one's personal integrity as well as organizational integrity.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Explain why the study of ethics is important for criminal justice professionals;
- b. Define ethical systems and three themes included in the definition of justice;
- c. Explain the concept of restorative justice;
- d. Describe what steps should be taken by organizational leaders to encourage ethical decision-making on part of their employees;
- e. Discuss the two different missions of law enforcement in a democracy;
- f. Discuss ethical issues with use of force;
- g. Discuss ethical arguments of police gratuities;
- h. Describe ethical issues faced in the court system and corrections system;
- i. Discuss types of legal misconduct in the court system; and
- j. Discuss the ethical frameworks and rationales of punishment.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Introduction to ethics
- b. Nature of ethics
- c. Ethical issues in policing
- d. Learning police ethics
- e. Ethics and the courts
- f. Ethical issues in sentencing
- g. Ethical issues in corrections
- h. Ethical issues in probation and parole
- i. Ethics and crime control
- j. Personal/interpersonal and organizational integrity

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