

Criminal Justice Ethics

Course	PHIL 250
Instructor	Dr. Rita Elizabeth Risser
Time	WF 12:30 - 13:50 Sep 4 – Dec 5
Place	Penticton Campus TBA
Office Hours	After class or by appointment
Contact	email TBA

Course Description

The course examines the ethical choices, actions and issues that arise for professionals in the field of criminal justice. The objective is not simply for students to learn the ethical codes for any given profession, but rather to learn how the codes were determined and *if* they are correct, as well as for students to undertake effective ethical decision-making of their own in the field.

To this end the course will introduce students to the vocabulary and processes by which ethical decisions are made, including foundational ethical theory, the fundamental principles and concepts of criminal justice ethics, and lastly, to contemporary issues in the field.

The assigned text is *Ethics and Criminal Justice* by John Kleinig, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Identify and assess foundational ethical theories, principles and concepts such as duties, rights, virtues, justice, and harm.
2. Apply said theories, principles, and concepts to ethical issues that arise in the field of criminal justice, distinguishing these issues from technical, legal, or commercial concerns.
3. Critically evaluate competing ethical arguments on the issues, being charitable as well as considering objections and alternatives.
4. Construct and defend, both orally and in writing, clear positions on ethical concerns encountered by criminal justice professionals.

Requirements

Mid Term Exam (Ethical Theory) 25%

Mid Term Exam (Criminal Justice and Enforcement) 35%

Final Exam (Courts and Punishments) 40%

The exams are essay-based and cumulative. Students should be prepared to write comprehensive answers to the questions. Brief, unexplained answers will not be sufficient.

To pass this course all requirements must be completed and attendance at lectures must be regular.

The grade for the course will be the sum of the weighted grades for the required work. There are no re-writes for exams.

Cell phones must be turned off in lecture. Recording the lectures is not permitted.

Course Schedule

September

Wed 4	<i>Introduction to the Course</i>
Fri 6	<i>Foundational Theory</i> The Trolley Problem Michael Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? Lecture 1
Wed 11	<i>Foundational Theory</i> Utilitarianism
Fri 13	<i>ADD/DROP End</i>
Wed 18	<i>Foundational Theory</i> Duty-Based Ethics Michael Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? Lecture 2
Fri 20	Rule-of-Law
Wed 25	<i>Foundational Theory</i> Virtue Ethics Roger Crisp, Virtue Ethics
Fri 27	A Good Life

October

Wed 2	What to Expect on Exams Writing an Argument-Based Essay Writing in College: From Competence to Excellence
Fri 4	Optional Review
Wed 9	Mid Term Exam 25%
Fri 11	No Class
Wed 16	<i>Criminalization</i> Civil Society (Kleinig pp. 7-19)
Fri 18	<i>Criminalization</i> Law and Enforcement (Kleinig pp. 20-48)
Sat 19-Mon 21	Distance Mid Term Exam Period
Wed 23	<i>Policing</i> Discretion (Kleinig pp. 51-88)
Fri 25	<i>Policing</i> Coercion and Deception (Kleinig pp. 89-110)
Wed 30	<i>Human Rights</i>

November

Fri 1	Optional Review
Wed 6	Mid Term Exam 35%

Fri 8	No Class
Wed 13	<i>Courts</i> Advocacy and Impartiality (Kleinig pp. 136-174)
Fri 15	<i>Corrections</i> Crime and Punishment (Kleinig pp. 195-211)
Wed 20	<i>Corrections</i> Imprisonment (Kleinig pp. 212-232)
Fri 22	Eastern State Penitentiary
Wed 27	<i>Human Rights</i>
Fri 29	<i>International Law</i>

December

Wed 4	What to Expect on the Final Exam
Fri 6	Comprehensive Review
Tue 10 – Fri 20	Final Exam 40%