Syllabus

Business/Philosophy/Administration of Justice 186: Business and Professional Ethics

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Description & Objectives

This course provides insights into both the causes of unethical behavior in business and the professions and into decision-making processes that are a vital part of professional life. Students will learn:

*Current philosophical conceptions and definitions of ethics

*A sociological paradigm for the analysis of unethical behavior

*The nature and scope of unethical behavior in business, political life, and in the criminal justice system

*Apply the concepts learned in business and professional contexts

*Appreciate the cultural diversity in global business, government, and criminal justice

*To critically examine their own ethical and ideological systems of thought
Prerequisites

This is a general education course openly only to upper-division students. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) and completion of the Core GE courses are also required.

Texts

Joel Henderson & David R. Simon, Crimes of the Criminal Justice System (Anderson, 1994), hereafter CCJS

Michael Brasswell et al (Eds.) Crime, Justice, & Ethics 3rd Ed (Anderson, 1999), hereafter CJE

David R. Simon & Frank Hagan, White-Collar Deviance (Allyn & Bacon, 1999), hereafter WCD


Suggested Readings

John Richardson, Ed, Annual Editions Business Ethics

David R. Simon, Elite Deviance 6th Ed (Allyn & Bacon, 1999)
Grading Criteria:

Research Project 25%

Students will complete a research project in ideological content analysis related to course areas. Directions are attached.

Midterm & Final Examinations 25% each

These will be based on textual readings and class meetings. Tests will be short answer and essay in nature.

Written Ethics Exercises 25%

These are a series of four written homework assignments designed to examine and resolve ethical problems in specific situations.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for exams and papers is as follows:

96-100: A+
93-95: A
90-92: A-
86-89: B+
83-85: B
80-82: B-
75-79: C+
65-74: C
60-65: C-
56-59: D+
53-55: D
50-52:D-
Below 50: F

Tentative Course Outline

Week #       Topic                              Assignments

Part I: The Study of Ethics

Week 1       Introduction to Ethics            CJE, Ch. 1; SPSI, Ch. 1

Week 2       Consequentialist, Deontological, &
              Humanist Ethics                       CJE, Chs. 2 & 3

Week 3       An Ethical Paradigm               CCJS, Chs. 1 & 2
              SPSI, Ch. 4

Week 4       Causes of Unethical Behavior      WCD, Ch. 1 & 2

Part II: Unethical Dimensions in Business & The Professions

Week 5       Corporate Deviance                SPSI, Chs. 2 & 3

Week 6       Occupational & Professional Deviance
              WCD, Ch. 4 & 5

Week 7       Organized White-Collar Deviance   WCD, Ch. 6; CCJS, Ch. 4

Part III: Unethical Dimensions of Political Governmental Behavior

Week 8       Modern Scandal                    CJE, Ch. 7; SPSI, Ch. 4

Week 9       Police Deviance                   CJE, Chs. 4 & 6
Week 10  Ethics & The Courts  CJE, Chs. 9 & 12

Week 11 Ethical Issues in Corrections CJE, Chs. 14 & 15;  
               CCJS, Ch. 3

Week 12 Ethical Issues in Policy  CJE, CJE, Ch. 19 & 21;  SPSI, CH. 6

Week 13 Ethical Issues In Research  SPSI, Ch. 5;  CJE, Chs. 17 & 18

Week 14  Dealing With Ethical Crises CJE, Ch. 21;  SPSI, Ch. 6;  WCD, Chs. 7

Week 15 Ethics in the 21st Century  CJE, Ch. 22;  WCD, Ch. 8;  CCJS, Ch. 7

Week 16  Final Examination