

CRIM 4350 Seminar – Ethics in the Criminal Justice System Fall 2024
SYLLABUS

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Class Format **F2F**
Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday – 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
Room: **CAB 223**
Office Hours: **Tues & Thurs –8:00 AM–Noon**
Other times by Appointment

Semester Quotations

Ethics training that brings about no change is as effective as a parachute that opens on the first bounce.

--Ed Bova

Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words, they become actions. Watch your actions, they become habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

--Frank Outlaw

The time is always right to do what is right.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.

-- Confucius

Integrity needs no rules.

- Albert Camus

On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock.

-- Thomas Jefferson

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice, he is the worst.

~~Aristotle

Punishment is justice for the unjust.

~~Saint Augustine

Benghazi matters because Americans deserve to know the truth from those entrusted to lead and govern.

Trey Gowdy

Required Textbook

Cheeseman, San Miguel, Frantzen, & Nored

Everyday Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional (3rd Edition) 2023

Course Description

This course examines ethical issues and dilemmas and legal problems in the criminal justice system. Ethical practices affecting decision-making by criminal justice professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, corrections officers, intelligence community members, and legislative actors will be analyzed and discussed from various perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies

- 1. Understand the major theories guiding ethical decision-making in criminal justice, intelligence, and legislative work.*
- 2. Demonstrate how to analyze real world scenarios through an ethical framework and develop solutions to ethical dilemmas*
- 3. Examine diverse opinions about ethical behavior in the context in relation to offenders, society, and the justice system goals.*
- 4. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and analyze ethical problems through scholarly writing.*

General Education Goals

- 1. To enhance student's literacy skills through assigned readings, discussions, exams, quizzes, assignments, and a written report.*
- 2. To increase student awareness of cultural and multi-cultural concerns through the study of criminal justice, intelligence, and legislative ethical issues and how they relate to and affect all cultures,*
- 3. To develop and apply critical thinking and analytical skills as they relate to ethical and various social/legal systems,*

4. To identify and comprehend various ethical issues and social factors that relate to law, the legal system, the intelligence community, the legislative community, and to understand their nexus, and
5. To prepare for the advanced study of ethics and ethical behavior in the legal/ criminal justice, intelligence, and legislative fields.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

All outcomes will be assessed through a combination of quizzes, assignments, exams, class participation, and a written report.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Examinations

There will be 3 exams during the semester. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choices, true-false, short answer, and fill-in questions. If a student fails to take any exam, he or she will receive a “0” for that portion of the overall course grade

Quizzes/Assignments

There will be random date quizzes/class assignments given during the course of the semester totaling 100 points. **No makeup quizzes/class assignments will be given, i.e., if you are absent from class on the day of the random quizzes or class assignments, POINTS CANNOT BE MADE UP.**

Written Report

STUDENTS WILL SELECT AN ETHICS RELATED TOPIC and complete a written report. Additional instructions will be provided in class. The report shall contain a minimum of 1,000 words, **NOT** including the cover page, abstract, and reference page. **You are to annotate the total number of words in the report on page 2. The report shall comply with the APA writing style for paper format, abstract, cover page, citations, headings, and references.** The link to the required APA formatting style is: www.apastyle.org. Go to “Learning APA Style” and to the free tutorial, “The Basics of APA Style.” While current events and media sources will likely be major contributors to class discussions, students will be required to use no less than three (3) **academic** resources for the written report. **WIKIPEDIA AND OTHER NON-ACADEMIC REFERENCES SHALL NOT BE USED AS ACADEMIC,**

CREDIBLE REFERENCES FOR THE WORK. The final report *shall* be electronically submitted as a WORD document into Blackboard at the date and time provided in class. The file name shall contain the student’s last name. A written report *grading rubric* is included in this Syllabus. Please review it carefully, as it clearly defines the written report grading structure. Word counts will be verified.

Along with following instructions, writing is a critical skill in Criminal Justice.

Late Assignments - Late assignments receive a 25% deduction if not received by the date and time shown in the syllabus schedule. ***Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted.*** Technological issues are not considered valid grounds for late assignment submission. Prior to submitting to Blackboard, ***save your work,*** as there have been instances where students submitted their work and no documents were found, other than the recorded attempt to submit. If this occurs, I will direct you to resubmit your work to my Texas A&M - SA email account (ralonzo@tamusa.edu).

Class Participation/Topic Discussion

*Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and provide current, relevant and informed academic discourse on assigned Ethics topics. **This requires student’s knowledge of current events,** individual research on Ethical issues discussed, and staying current with assigned readings.*

Student Responsibility for Blackboard Access

Students are responsible for ensuring access to Blackboard is unfettered.

Announcements sent to students through the Blackboard or TAMUSA e-mail system are one of the official means of communicating **course** instructions, information, deadlines, due dates, Syllabus changes, and university business, not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students must check their Blackboard and TAMUSA e-mail accounts regularly. Not having seen an important Blackboard or TAMUSA e-mail message or announcement from a **FACULTY MEMBER**, chair, dean or other University administrator is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure any critical

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information sent to a FACULTY MEMBER, ***by any means***, is in fact received by the FACULTY MEMBER.

Blackboard access issues or technical questions are to be directed to helpdesk@tamusa.edu or the ITS help desk at 210.784.4357.

Students are responsible for Blackboard familiarity, access, and technical issue resolutions prior to the first day of class.

Decorum

- *Please be respectful towards classmates. This includes being in class on time. Attendance will be taken.*
- **SEE LETTER GRADE REDUCTION NOTICE**
- **Food is not allowed in class.** Beverages are allowed.
- **Phones are to be turned off or on silent mode and off the desks.** Phone usage and texting are not allowed in class. (Students in violation will be asked to leave the classroom)
- **Laptops are allowed for research during class and notetaking purposes only. (Students in violation will be asked to leave the classroom)**
- **Taping or videoing of lectures is prohibited.**
- **Lecture power point presentations will be available in Blackboard immediately after class.**
- **Any statement that is discriminatory or disrespectful toward any group of people or that creates a forum hostile to others will not be tolerated. It is possible that comments will not be intended as discriminatory or disrespectful but may be interpreted as such. In these cases, the Professor will discuss openly why the statement is inappropriate the first time. Use of identified terms or phrases after that will be interpreted as intentionally disrespectful and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.**

This is directly from the Enrollment Management and Student Business Services.

“3. Required Attendance - In accordance with federal requirements,

ANY STUDENT RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID WHO DOES NOT ATTEND CLASSES DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES WILL LOSE THEIR FEDERAL AID. To continue to receive aid, you are required to attend classes and participate.”

Class Attendance

A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Every faculty member is to keep a current attendance record on all students. Lack of attendance does not relieve the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY for content covered in class, subsequent class preparation, classwork, or assignments due. If you are unable to attend in person, I strongly suggest a phone a friend option for these very situations and uncertain times. As stated, faculty members are to keep a current attendance record on all students.

Letter Grade Reduction

You are required to attend class.

Attendance will be taken each class day beginning with the first day.

5 absences shall result in a letter grade drop.

6 or more absences shall result in failure of the class.

Course Grading

<i>Exam 1</i>	100
<i>Exam 2</i>	100
<i>Final Exam</i>	100
<i>Written Report</i>	100
<i>Quizzes/Assignments/Attendance</i>	100

<i>Total Possible Points</i>	500

Grading Scale

- 450-500 pts = A (90 %+)**
- 400-449 pts = B (80 %+)**
- 350-399 pts = C (70 %+)**
- 300-349 pts = D (60 %+)**
- 299 and below = F**

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IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

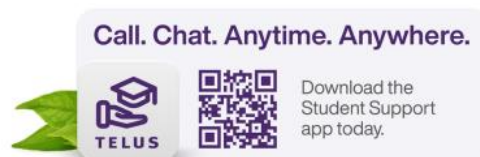
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

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More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here:
<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

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The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an

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excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.

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5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>)

- No Use of Generative AI Permitted

CRIM 4350 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Dropping the Course

It is the student's responsibility to drop a course from the University. Please contact the Registrar if you desire to drop the course.

Below are the key dates for dropping a course for Fall 2024.

Last day to drop a course with an automatic W – 11/11/2024

Last day to drop a course/withdraw from the University – 11/19/2024

Grading Rubric – Written Report

Name:
Course: Seminar – Ethics in the Criminal Justice System
Assignment: Research Project
Date: xx/xx/24

Grading Criteria	Points Available	Grade	Points Earned
Content Development	15	%	
Organization	15	%	
Relevance/Readability/Style	20	%	
Format	20	%	
Length	10	%	
Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling	20	%	
Totals	100		

GRADING RUBRIC FOR REPORT	
Content and Development/Organization/Relevance	
All key elements of the assignment are covered in a substantive way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students chose a relevant topic. • The <i>body</i> of the paper is at least 1,000 words in length 	
The content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive.	
Major points are stated clearly; are supported by specific details, examples, or analysis; and are organized logically.	
The introduction provides sufficient background on the topic and previews major points.	
The conclusion is logical, flows from the body of the paper, and reviews the major points.	
Readability and Style	
Paragraph transitions are present, logical, and maintain the flow throughout the paper.	
The tone is appropriate to the content and assignment.	
Sentences are complete, clear, and concise.	
Sentences are well constructed, with consistently strong, varied sentences.	
Sentence transitions are present and maintain the flow of thought.	
Mechanics	
The paper, including the title page and reference page follows APA formatting guidelines.	
Citations of original works within the body of the paper follow APA guidelines.	
The paper is laid out with effective use of headings, font styles, and white space.	
Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed.	
Spelling is correct.	

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Fall 2024 CLASS SCHEDULE

8-27	<i>Welcome, Syllabus, Critical Thinking Concepts</i>	
8-29	<i>An Introduction to Everyday Ethics in Criminal Justice</i>	Chap 1
9/3-9/5	<i>Origins of Thought on Ethics</i>	Chap 2
9/10-9/12	<i>Ethics and the Evolution of Police</i>	Chap 3
9/17-9/19	<i>Ethics and Police Work</i>	Chap 4
	Customs & Border Protection - DHS	
9/24	<i>Exam 1 Review</i>	
9/26	Exam 1	
10/1	NO CLASS	
10/3-10/8	<i>Ethical Responsibilities-Lawyers-Officers of the Court</i>	Chap 5
10/10-10/15	<i>Prosecutors and Judges – Public Servants</i>	Chap 6
10/17-10/22	<i>Ethics In Prisons and Jails</i>	Chap 7
	FBI – HUMAN TRAFFICKING	
10/24-10/29	<i>Ethics in Probation, Parole & Community Corrections</i>	Chap 8
	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department-State Police-Game Warden	
10/31	<i>Exam 2 Review</i>	
11/5	Exam 2	
	Department of Homeland Security	
11/7-11/12	<i>Ethics in Security and Loss Prevention – SELF STUDY</i>	Chap 9
11/14-11/19	<i>Ethics and the CJS Supervisor</i>	Chap 10
	Guest Presentation - DCSA	
11/21-	<i>Ethics and Terrorism</i> RESEARCH PROJECT DUE	Chap 11
11/26-11/28	NO CLASS	
12/3	<i>Ethics and Unique/Emerging Issues in CJ</i>	Chap 12
12/5	<i>Ethics and Forensic Science</i>	Chap 13
	<i>Final Thoughts Final Exam Review</i>	
	<i>Reading Day</i>	
	Final Exam - TBD	
	The Syllabus is subject to change	

For discussion purposes, a critical element of the course, students are expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to class. A requirement of this course and to earn 10 extra credit points is to acknowledge through the Blackboard Email Messaging System that you read and understand the syllabus.