

SYLLABUS

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Class Format: **ONLINE - BLACKBOARD**
Office Hours: **Tues & Thursday–8:00 am-10:30 am; 2-3 pm**
 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.

-- Confucious

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

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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 and weekly compositions,*
- 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.*

Blackboard

As this is an Online Class, Blackboard will be used. **All students must be familiar with Blackboard, have reliable internet access, and have basic computer skills. Individuals not comfortable using a computer should not attempt to take this course!**

This class is not about teaching you how to use Blackboard.

Tutorials are available and are contained within Blackboard. If you do not have a fast AND reliable internet connection, you should plan to use TAMUSA on-campus computer labs for all coursework.

Discussion forums, reading assignments, required reading questions, research project instructions, and their respective due dates will be posted on Blackboard along with grades, announcements, and key documents. Blackboard access issues or technical questions are to be directed to helpdesk@tamusa.edu or the ITS help desk at 210.784.4357.

Immediate and continued access to Blackboard is critical as student performance is evaluated each week and grade points accumulate beginning with Week 1.

Since this is an online course, it is critical each student complete each weeks reading and other assignments. I will be available via email and during posted office hours for any questions you may have about the assignments, or the material being discussed that week. You may also call me during my office hours at 210.784.2233.

In addition, general communication / announcements with the class will be made via the university **Blackboard email system.**

My direct email is:

ralonzo@tamusa.edu

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

“3. *Required Attendance* – *In accordance with federal requirements,*

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.

(Note: Attendance in online classes equates to participation in and the timely, successful completion of assigned work, as outlined in the syllabus – *beginning with week 1*)

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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 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.

Respectful Communication

A learning objective component for this course is communicating respectfully at all times even when in disagreement. Virtual communication does not contain non-verbal cues that are part of face to face communication and may be misinterpreted. It is your responsibility to structure your posts and responses in a manner that are respectful, informative and usefully received by the recipients. Disrespect to any class participant will not be tolerated and will be immediately dealt with. Debate is a crucial part of the college learning process, so please do not hinder the learning environment by responding harshly or inappropriately to others. As noted earlier, if you disagree with someone's position, then refute it with well-reasoned and communicated responses.

Relevant Communication

You have the opportunity to participate in a class without the pressures of attendance or having to listen to a lecture, day after day. You will be able to offer your uninterrupted comments, experiences, ideas, thoughts, and suggestions on each different topic. You will be allowed the space to be creative, critical, and express your feelings. Coupled with reading, exchanging ideas and suggestions with classmate's and debating thoughts and positions on topics, **you will get out of this class, exactly what you put into it.** So, take advantage of this forum and method of education with exchanging ideas and conveying, unabated, your supported position on issues relevant to the course.

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Assessment of Learning Outcomes

All outcomes will be assessed through a combination of:

1. Forum Discussion Topics (**FDT's**),
2. Required Reading Questions (**RRQ's**), and
3. Final Exam via Blackboard

Evaluation of Student Performance

Please read very carefully.

Online Participation

Weekly online participation is **compulsory** and consists of:

- (a) **Addressing and answering** the weekly Forum Discussion Topic (FDT) question posted in Blackboard's **Forum Discussion** Area.
- (b) **Replying to a classmate's post** in Blackboard's **Forum Discussion** Area
- (c) **Answering weekly** Required Readings Questions (RRQ) posted in Blackboard's **Course Content** area, and
- (d) **Completing the Final Exam** in Blackboard.

For purposes of online participation and in order to allow you the opportunity to use the weekends for online forum discussions (FDT's**) and required reading questions (**RRQ's**), the week will begin on Wednesday and end on the following Tuesday at midnight CST. For the Spring 2025 semester, week 1 will begin on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, and end on Tuesday, January 28th, at midnight. Week 2 will begin on Wednesday, January 29th, and end at midnight the following Tuesday, February 4th, 2025. I will post a new topic(s) for forum discussion (FDT) and the required readings questions (RRQ's) by Wednesday of each week. Week 3 and all succeeding weeks will begin on Wednesday and end on the following Tuesday, at midnight.**

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Additionally, you will be required to submit answers in **Course Content** to the weekly **REQUIRED READING QUESTIONS (RRQ's)** generated from assigned weekly readings from the textbook or lecture, or power point, as shown in the Syllabus, and other sources provided.

All RRQ's are due by midnight on Tuesdays.

Each week your first FDT post or response will be due no later than (NLT) midnight, Saturday (This allows me to review and respond to your post, if applicable, and allows your fellow students to respond to you as well). Your second FDT post or response will be due NLT midnight, Tuesday.

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO LOG INTO BLACKBOARD AND POST OR RESPOND ON TWO SEPARATE DAYS OF THE WEEK addressing several different forum discussion topics (FDT's) and to contribute at least **one substantive forum discussion post/response on each of those two separate days of the week** (*this equates to a minimum of two posts per week on two different days of the week {similar to attending class two days a week}*). **For example, you POST your answer to the weekly FDT on a Thursday and RESPOND to a classmate on a Sunday. This equates to 2 posts per week (one post and one response) on 2 different days of the week, in this example, on Thursday and on Sunday. (You have met the minimum posting/responding requirement)**

More than one forum discussion topic may be posted each week and you are invited to respond. You may post more than one forum discussion on those two days, or you may participate more than two days each week. Your second required post may be responding to another forum discussion topic or a response to a classmate's post. You may post or respond as often as you like on as many days as you like. The purpose is to generate discourse on the weekly topics. **I encourage this. BUT REMEMBER, AT A**

MINIMUM, YOU MUST POST ON AT LEAST TWO SEPARATE DAYS

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OF THE WEEK AND MEET THE MINIMUM POSTING/RESPONDING REQUIREMENTS DETAILED BELOW.**Online Forum Discussion Topics (FDT's)**

A portion of your final grade **(60%)** is based on your online participation in the forum discussion topics (**FDT's**) in **Blackboard**. Discussion topics will consist of questions covering reading material and multimedia sources that familiarize you with Ethical issues in the Criminal Justice System. Your post must include a discussion of substantive material related to the topic and examples to illustrate your understanding of the material. **While quantity is not as critical as quality, the minimum word count I require in order to earn a grade of "C" is a 300 word SUBSTANTIVE POST to the forum discussion topic and a 300 word SUBSTANTIVE REPLY to a classmate.** Word counts will be verified. To give you some perspective, a 430 or greater word substantive post or reply is eligible for a grade of "A". **Additionally, you are required to place the word count at the bottom of each post and reply.** **Repeating the dilemma or issue posed in your post and listing your references at the end of your post or response will not be included in the minimum word count** **THIS IS NOT A CHAT ROOM, TEXTING MEDIUM, OR SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLET.** The maximum number of forum discussion topic (FDT) points you may earn each week is 40, as shown in the Course Grades section of this syllabus. **Extra credit points may be earned each week at the discretion of the Professor based on the post content.** Clear and concise answers and discussions are expected to be well written, grammatically correct, referenced, if applicable, and shall take required readings and class discussions into account. Students are expected to be mindful of current domestic law enforcement, political, economic, military, and international events and are invited to provide discourse in these areas as they affect current class topics. Students will be expected to 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. Unlike formal written assignments, your **FDT** posts do not have to

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adhere to specific formatting requirements. However, **please be sure to carefully**

proofread, as following instructions, critical thought analysis, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and paying attention to detail will impact the grading.

Your **SUBSTANTIVE (applicable, relevant, practical, essential, fundamental)** content, critical thought and analysis, current event reference, and real-life experiences, if applicable, of the forum discussion topic (FDT) post will be significant factors in

your online participation grade. Please do not wait until the last minute to post as

rushed postings tend to lack substance, critical thought, word count, and do not provide

meaningful discourse. **The following criteria will be used to evaluate your FDT posts**

each week:

Following Instructions

Critical Thinking

Topic Relevance

Content Development

Organization,

Readability/Style,

Length,

Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling.

FDT's will be posted in Blackboard on Wednesday of each week and are due NLT

*midnight the following Tuesday. **Note: Late posts, more than one day late, are not***

accepted. *While you may provide outside content to your FDT posts, **I expect***

the great majority of your work (90 %) to be YOUR

thoughts, YOUR analysis, and YOUR conclusions.

If you use outside source information, reference your sources at the end of

your post or response.

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WEEKLY FEEDBACK

Feedback will be provided on all FDT posts and replies. I urge you to read this feedback and correct any issues you may encounter early on in the semester. Some students wait too long to read the feedback. This results in compounding the weekly issues encountered that directly impact the final grade.

A grading rubric for FDT's is included in this syllabus. Please review.

Plagiarism - the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

- 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 shall 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.

For each item turned in, you attest to the following:

"I confirm that I did not use AI, including but not limited to, ChatGPT, Gemini, or any other platform to generate my posts or responses. I understand that Texas A&M holds students to the highest level, so I did not cheat and/or plagiarize posts or responses. I also confirm that my submitted work will be run through plagiarism software. If it reveals I have generated any portion of my response from AI, I will earn an immediate zero and may have disciplinary action by the college."

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Writing is a critical skill in Criminal Justice and is perishable...i.e., if not practiced, it will diminish...

Pay Attention to Detail!

This course will rely on written lectures, Power Point presentations, additional required readings, class interaction, and FDT's. Therefore, each student bears the responsibility to communicate with the professor and fellow students about course material so that class discussions remain fluid and meaningful.

In order to accomplish this goal, students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading material(s) prior to addressing the weekly FDT's and RRQ's.

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***

Examination

There will be a Final Exam. The exam will consist of a combination of multiple choices, true-false questions, fill-ins, and short answer questions. The final exam will be conducted via Blackboard during finals week at a date and time TBD.

Final Thoughts – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

*It has been my experience over the years teaching online classes that a few students do not address the topics or participate in online discussion and curriculum for the first couple of weeks, thinking they can catch up or make up work later in the semester or think the excuse of 'not having access to Blackboard' will resolve the issue...**please do not fall into this trap...***

*I urge you to begin your online regimen immediately, as **points accumulate from week 1** and **there is no extra credit at the end of the semester...I***

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repeat...there is no extra credit at the end of the semester. *Ensure you have access to Blackboard from day 1, as **it is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class.** University work is not a side hustle...it is not a side gig...it is a commitment and a responsibility that you have taken on...do not wait until class begins to check your access. Check for and resolve any access issues on the first day you are granted access by the University. **Non-access is not an acceptable excuse for a late start...I repeat... non-access is not an acceptable excuse for a late start...***

Points are accumulated each week, beginning with week 1 and it is usually those students that need a few points at the end of semester **for the next higher grade or to pass the course** that suddenly realize extra credit work will put them over the top. **The maximum number of points a student may earn each week for FDT's is 40 (20 points for the FDT post and 20 points for the response to a student) and for RRQ's, 20.**

The online method of higher education is not just about learning new material. It is a breakthrough in education that allows students and instructors to benefit from state-of-the-art technology with minimum pushback from the hindering pressures of location, work schedules, family responsibilities, military deployments, and travel. If questions, concerns, internet inaccessibility, or conflicts ever arise, please feel free to communicate with me at any time at ralonzo@tamusa.edu. **All mail submitted to me will be answered.**

If you are ever on campus, please come by and introduce yourself, as it is always good to place a name with a face. And I will be glad to assist you with any type of career information or questions you may have about any type of criminal justice, intelligence, or federal organizations, as I have served in all capacities.

Grading Rubric - Forum Discussion Topics (FDT) Post & Response (Each worth 20 Points)

1. *Student failed to respond to the FDT question.*

Zero (0) points

2. *The FDT illustrates poor understanding of the relevant material by failing to address or incorrectly addressing the relevant content; failing to identify or inaccurately explaining/defining key concepts/ideas; ignoring or incorrectly explaining key points/claims and the reasoning behind them; and/or incorrectly or inappropriately using terminology, and elements of the response are lacking.*

1-5 points

3. *The FDT illustrates a rudimentary understanding of the relevant material by mentioning but not fully explaining the relevant content; identifying some of the key concepts/ideas though failing to fully or accurately explain many of them; using terminology, though sometimes inaccurately or inappropriately; and/or incorporating some key claims/points but failing to explain the reasoning behind them or doing so inaccurately. Elements of the required response may also be lacking.*

6-10 points

4. *The FDT illustrates a solid understanding of the relevant material by correctly addressing most of the relevant content; identifying and explaining most of the key concepts/ideas; using correct terminology; explaining the reasoning behind most of the key points/claims; and/or where necessary or useful, substantiating some points with accurate examples. The answer is complete.*

11-15 points

5. *The FDT illustrates an exemplary understanding of the relevant material by thoroughly and correctly addressing the relevant content; identifying and explaining all of the key concepts/ideas; using correct terminology explaining the reasoning behind key points/claims and substantiating, as necessary/useful, points with several accurate and illuminating examples. No aspects of the required answer are missing.*

16-20 points

Course Grading

Forum Discussion Topics (FDT's-post & response) – 14 Wks @ 40	560
Required Reading Questions (RRQ's) – 14 Wks @ 20	280
Self-Reflection Report Due Date – NLT midnight- Monday, February 3rd	60
Final Exam – Online - VIA BLACKBOARD	100

Total Possible Points	1,000

Grading Scale

- 900-1,000 pts = A (90 %+)**
- 800-899 pts = B (80 %+)**
- 700-799 pts = C (70 %+)**
- 600-699 pts = D (60 %+)**
- 599 and below = F**

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 SPRING 2025.

Last day to drop a course with an automatic W – 4/21/2025

Last day to drop a course/withdraw from the University – 4/28/2025

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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.

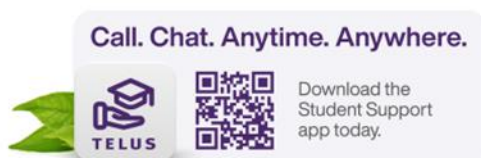
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *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.

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)

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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 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.

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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.
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.

SYLLABUS

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>).

Important Dates:

1/21/25	First day of class
2/5/2025	Census Date
4/21/2025	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
4/28/2025	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
5/5/2025	Last day of Class
5/6/2025	Study Day
5/7-13	Final Exams

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

Spring 2025 Schedule

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS	CHAPTER
WK 1	1/21-28	Welcome, Syllabus & Critical Thinking Concepts The Importance of Ethics in Criminal Justice	
Wk 2	1/29-2/4	An Introduction to Everyday Ethics in CJ	1
Wk 3	2/5-11	Theory and Origins of Thought on Ethics	2
Wk 4	2/12-18	Ethics and the Evolution of Police	3
Wk 5	2/19-25	Ethics and Police Work	4
Wk 6	2/26-3/4	Officer of the Court - Lawyers	5
Wk 7	3/5-11	Prosecutors & Judges - Ethics of Public Servants	6
Wk 8	3/12-18	SPRING BREAK	
Wk 9	3/19-25	Correctional Institutions - Ethics in Prisons and Jails	7
Wk 10	3/26-4/1	Ethics in Probation, Parole and Community Corrections	8
Wk 11	4/2-8	Ethics in Security and Loss Prevention	9
Wk 12	4/9-15	Ethics and the CJS Supervisor	10
Wk 13	4/16-22	Ethics and Terrorism	11
Wk 14	4/23-29	Ethics and Unique/Emerging Issues in CJ	12
Wk 15	4/30-5/5	Ethics and Forensic Science	13
	5/6	READING DAY	
		FINAL EXAM - ONLINE - DATE/TIME TBD	

The Syllabus is subject to change

A requirement of this course and to earn 10 extra credit points is to acknowledge through the Blackboard Email Messaging System that you have read and understand the syllabus.