

Saint Leo University

CRM 350 Criminal Justice Ethics

Course Description:

This course is designed to be a comprehensive overview of ethics in the field of criminal justice. This course will address ethical issues that may arise in the criminal justice profession. Through lecture, class discussion, and exercises, the student will develop a better understanding of the moral and ethical dilemmas confronting criminal justice practitioners and how these dilemmas may be successfully resolved.

Prerequisites:

POL 123 - Introduction to Law and the Legal System and CRM 220 - Survey of the Criminal Justice System

Textbooks:

The Textbook information which appears on our Saint Leo Bookstore ordering site is as follows:

Pollock, J.M. (2019). *Ethical dilemmas and decisions in criminal justice* (10th Edition.) Loose-Leaf w/ Mindtap Access (Custom) ISBN-13: 978-1-337-56093-1

Pollock, J.M. (2019). *Ethical dilemmas and decisions in criminal justice* (10th Edition.) E-Book w/ Mindtap Access (Custom) ISBN-13: 978-1-305-64051-1

Your custom textbook was created from the following National text(s):

Pollock, J.M. (2019). *Ethical dilemmas and decisions in criminal justice* (10th Edition.) ISBN-13: 978-1-337-55849-5

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN-13: 978-1-4338-0561-5; ISBN-10: 1-4338-0561-8

Commercial software program templates are available for purchase to assist in the correct formatting for use of APA. One example is found at <http://www.perrla.com/>

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of this course, students will

1. Demonstrate an understanding that Ethics is related to the Saint Leo University core value of Integrity.
2. Define ethics and related terms (morals, values, standards) as related to the law enforcement profession.
3. List and describe theories of moral decision making.
4. Describe the principles of crime control, the law enforcement model and the influence of society over these processes.
5. Discuss and apply the "Law Enforcement Code of Ethics."
6. Analyze situational ethics in law enforcement (i.e., use of lies, the culture of LAPD during the 1990s, undercover work).
7. Evaluate case law in relation to methods for resolving ethical dilemmas.

Core Value:

Integrity: The commitment of Saint Leo University to excellence demands that its members live its mission and deliver on its promise. The faculty, staff, and students pledge to be honest, just, and consistent in word and deed.

Evaluation:

Discussions	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Reflection Papers	10%
Research Paper	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

Grade	Score (%)
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Weekly Discussion Postings/Participation: A portion of your grade will be based on informed participation in class discussions and submission of an annotated bibliography. Weekly Discussions are worth 15% of the course grade.

Grading Rubric Weekly Discussion Postings/Participation

Category	0-2	3-4	5-7	8-10
Promptness and Initiative	Does not respond to most discussions; rarely participates freely	Responds to classmates' comments	Responds to classmates' comments	Responds to classmates' comments
Delivery of Post	Comments appear "hasty" or uninformed	Comments somewhat informed	Comments appear to be informed	Comments informed and sources cited during discussion
Relevance of Post	Discuss topics which do not relate to the discussion content; Makes short or irrelevant remarks	Occasionally talks off topic; most comments are short in length and offer no further insight into the topic	Comments on topics that are related to discussion content; prompts further discussion of topic	Comments on topics related to discussion topic; cites additional references related to topic
Expression Within the Post	Does not express opinions or ideas clearly; no connection to topic	Unclear connection to topic evidenced in minimal expression of opinions or Ideas	Opinions and ideas are stated clearly with occasional lack of connection to topic	Expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic
Contribution to the Learning Community	Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group	Attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely	Aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic

Midterm and Final Exam: Each exam will consist of essay questions. Students will be allowed one opportunity to complete each exam. Each exam is worth 25% of the course grade.

Reflection Papers: In addition to the other identified module assignments, you **MUST** also create a weekly reflection paper. A reflection paper is a personal reflection and reaction to the specific question listed in each module. It must be one to two pages in length and follow APA format. You are free to state a well-informed, personal opinion if based on the readings, personal knowledge, training, or experience. Objectively justify or defend any statements made that are not expressly supported by the text and cite any other resources using the APA style. You must incorporate related information from cited scholarly journal or referenced articles in your Reflection Paper, in addition to the course text. The paper must be 500-750 words. These papers will be submitted weekly to the professor through the Assignment box. (Assignment box baskets may be linked to Turnitin.)

Grading Rubric for Reflection Papers

Category	Problems 0-2	Some Weaknesses 3-5	Acceptable 6-9	Well Done 10-15
Coherence: Do sentences in paragraphs relate to one another in a logical way? Are relationships between paragraphs easily discernible?	Main idea in most paragraphs cannot be identified; paragraphs have little or no discernible relationship to one another	Many paragraphs lack internal consistency; many transitions are weak or used inappropriately	A few paragraphs lack internal consistency; a few weak or unclear transitions	Paragraphs are internally consistent (i.e., one idea/theme runs through a paragraph); transitions between paragraphs allow reader to easily follow thread of argument
Clarity/Conciseness: Are sentences structurally correct, succinct, and easy to understand?	More than 10 percent of sentences are awkward, incorrectly constructed, or wordy	Six to ten percent of sentences are awkward, incorrectly constructed, or wordy	Five percent or less of sentences are awkward, incorrectly constructed, or wordy	Sentences flow smoothly, are structurally correct, and convey the intended meaning; no wordiness
Formatting: Are formatting elements used appropriately to strengthen the document?	Formatting elements are confusing or inconsistent; lack of any formatting	Formatting elements often do not support main points; elements are not always used consistently	Formatting elements do not always support main points; elements are used consistently throughout the document	Formatting elements organize and highlight ideas as needed; formatting elements are used consistently throughout the document
Use of APA Style and Format	Fully APA Styled and Formatted	Fully APA Styled and Formatted	Fully APA Styled and Formatted	Fully APA Styled and Formatted

Research Paper: Each student will be required to submit a research paper on the topic below. This paper is expected to present a comprehensive overview of both sides of the issue, along with supporting research. Students are expected to critically examine the topic and present it in depth. Your paper should consist of no less than 7 pages excluding the title and reference pages. The Research Paper is worth 25% of the course grade. No more than 20% of the material in this assignment may be attributed to properly referenced resources.

Topic: Discretion and the Criminal Justice Professional

For your paper, choose one criminal justice profession below and answer this question: when does the use of professional discretion cross ethical boundaries?

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors
- Judges
- Defense Counsel
- Corrections Officers

Grading Rubric for Research Papers

Criteria	Ratings				
	0	Novice	Basic	Proficient	Exceptional
The paper presents both sides of the selected topic	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Clearly identifies focus and logically analyzes one position in depth	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
The paper makes a connection between the selected position and the core value of respect, with appropriate analysis	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Grammar, spelling, and syntax are appropriate to the college level	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Typed in a double-spaced APA format with citations and references	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20

Critique of Writing Assignments

Assignments may be critiqued by your professor in the open during discussions. The critique may include areas of: deficiencies, needing improvement, as well as positive attributes. The comments are to promote further student learning. No grade will be posted on any assignments where other students can see them and grades will only be posted in private areas.

Special Notes

Please read this entire syllabus several times. Participation is a percentage of your final grade; students are expected to comply with all the requirements outlined in the course syllabus. Students should read-work ahead of the assigned work.

Students should access and read the university policy on plagiarism and www.plagiarism.org and www.turnitin.com and be prepared to discuss the purpose of these resources in class.

Students are expected to use the library databases and research various topics for use in class discussions. Students should make appropriate notes and print out their topics and bring to class. You are encouraged to locate global newsworthy events not just examples found in the United States. Newspaper articles are not acceptable.

Late or make up work is not accepted unless it is for a documented emergency preapproved in advance.

Your Professor strives to grade your assignments as soon as possible. However, it may take up to 1 week or longer to grade assignments.

Written Assignments and the APA Format

The Department of Criminal Justice recognizes the value of excellence in writing for students in Criminal Justice. In part, each professor is expected to provide guidance on improving a student's writing skills. Students are required to use only the APA (American Psychological Association) format to write and develop a scholarly paper for submission in the Social Sciences. APA has been adopted by the Department as its writing standard for all academic written assignments. No other writing style is acceptable.

APA is the American Psychological Association, and the style is one of many in the academic world used to regulate the language, citations, procedure, and formatting of manuscripts and other examples of writing in the social sciences. Please be consistent throughout each written paper. *Refer to APA Guide under Resources on the Course Menu for APA specifics.*

All projects, assignments, or papers submitted for grading will be required to include an abstract and reference page. All references are to be cited using the American Psychology Association (APA) format (6th edition). Other formats will not be accepted. For each scholarly paper and group assignment(s), the work will be assessed using an individual grading rubric for each assignment. This tool and process helps the students identify and professor measure the key points necessary to successfully complete written or group assignments. *Wikipedia is not an appropriate source for any scholarly writing and is not permitted for any assignment in this program.*

Assistance can be obtained from the APA manual, library and the following reference:

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm#what>

Course Schedule:

Module 1 Ethics and Morality

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe the importance of ethics as it relates to the law enforcement profession.
- Differentiate between the terms morals, ethics, values, standards, and ethical dilemmas.
- Determine the relationship between moral and lawful behavior when contrasted with immoral and unlawful behavior.
- Identify the steps in analyzing an ethical dilemma.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Post an introduction to the class	
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 2 Justice and Ethical Professionalism

Objectives

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify Lawrence Kohlberg's Moral Stages.
- Describe the three themes of justice.
- Describe the distinction between Distributive Justice and Corrective Justice.
- Differentiate between Substantive and Procedural Justice.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 3**Police Power and Discretion****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Discuss the role of police officer as crime fighter versus public servant and determine if there is a correlation between these two roles.
- Analyze the role that discretion plays in the role of law enforcement and how that discretion may lead to discrimination.
- Discuss the “Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.”
- Describe the elements of the formal code of ethics and contrast them with the values of the police subculture.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 4**Police Corruption and Legal Professional Ethics****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Determine the societal role of modern law enforcement as it relates to authority, power, force, and persuasion.
- Describe and define the different types of police corruption.
- Identify ways to combat, reduce, and prevent corruption.
- Analyze the controversy concerning the role of an attorney as legal agent or moral agent.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 4	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Midterm Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 5 **Discretion of Legal Professionals**

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe the function of jury consultants and determine whether they are considered ethical assets to the legal profession.
- Detail the types of misconduct that have been associated with defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges.
- Explain the importance of attorney/client privilege and determine when counsel may ethically forgo that privilege.
- Define and describe the scope of Prosecutorial Misconduct.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 5	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Continue working on Research Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 7

Module 6 **The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections**

Objectives When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Explain the importance of the 8th Amendment as it applies to punishment.
- Analyze the pros and cons of capital punishment.
- Describe the correctional officer subculture.
- List and describe some ethical issues for correctional officers.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 6	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 7**Correctional Professionals and Misconduct****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the difference between misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance.
- Describe types of misconduct by correctional officers.
- Describe types of misconduct by community corrections professionals.
- Describe types of misconduct by treatment professionals.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Reflection Paper 7	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Research Paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

Module 8**Ethics and Terrorism****Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Analyze the post 9/11 effects on law enforcement and punishment.
- Examine the arguments for and against the use of torture.
- Identify the meaning of the term whistleblowers.

Assignments

Items to be Completed:	Due No Later Than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Complete Final Exam	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT