

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW AT CANTON  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**JUST 314 – Ethics in Criminal Justice**

**Prepared By: Lisa E. Colbert  
Updated By: Kevin Carvill**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
SPRING 2020**

- A. **TITLE:** Ethics in Criminal Justice
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 314
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** (3)
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** (15 weeks)
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 lecture hours per week
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**  
This course will provide the student with theories and practices of ethics and professionalism in criminal justice. Areas of concentration will be law enforcement, courts, and corrections. This course will require the student to exercise critical thinking skills to solve issues that test the morals and ethics of criminal justice professionals on a daily basis. Students may not earn credit for both BSAD319/Professional Ethics and JUST314/Ethics in Criminal Justice.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** A minimum of 45 credit hours in Criminal Investigation, Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Leadership or Homeland Security or instructor's approval.
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**  
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<b><u>Course Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Institutional SLO</u></b>
<b>a.</b> Identify the terms ethics, professionalism, and morals.	<b>1. Crit. Thinking</b>
<b>b.</b> Research ethical dilemmas and practices in criminal justice situations using theories of ethical development.	<b>4. Ethical Reasoning</b>

c. Explain the categories of moralistic behavior.	<b>1. Comm. Skills</b>
d. Explain how discretion and discrimination affects law enforcement.	<b>1. Comm. Skills</b>
e. Discuss the significance of ethics and professionalism within the courts and corrections.	<b>1. Comm. Skills</b>

**K. TEXTS:** Whitman, Mark L. Ethics in Life and Vocation. (2018) Open Educational Resource (OER): <https://textbooks.opensuny.org/ethics-in-life-and-vocation/>

**L. REFERENCES:** None.

**M. EQUIPMENT:** Technology-enhanced classroom

**N. GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**N. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Assessments
- Assignments
- Research Paper
- Classroom Participation and Professionalism

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Ethical Decisions

- a. Ethics
- b. Moral Relativism
- c. Critical Thinking

II. Virtue Ethics

- a. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
- b. Hierarchy of goods
- c. Stoicism
- d. Hedonism
- e. Ethical dilemmas

### III. Formalism

- a. Kant
- b. Categorical imperative
- c. Practical imperative
- d. Lying and criticisms

### IV. Utilitarianism

- a. John Stuart Mill
- b. Motivation vs Consequences
- c. Criticisms of Utilitarianism
- d. Ethical theories

### V. Crime and Law

- a. what to criminalize
- b. violating morals
- c. Ethical explanation of crime
- d. Ethics laws

### VI. Police

- a. Police decisions
- b. Surveillance
- c. Stop and frisk
- d. Police corruption
- e. Interrogation
- f. Custody
- g. Arrest and search
- h. Code of ethics

### VII. Courts

- a. Justice
- b. Prosecutor misconduct
- c. Defense misconduct
- d. Trial issues
- e. Judicial decisions

### VIII. Punishment and Corrections

- a. Punishment and ethics

- b. Sentencing
- c. Corporal punishment
- d. Capital punishment

IX. Liability

- a. Civil remedies
- b. Individual misconduct
- c. Corporate misconduct
- d. Government misconduct

X. The Future

- a. Recognizing ethical decisions
- b. Defining moments
- c. Being ethical when no one is looking