

SYLLABUS

ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 248 AND PHILOSOPHY 248

"APPLIED ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE"

Dr. Michael A. Caldero

Fall 2008

Office: D-100-C

Office Hours: 11:30am to 12:30pm Tuesday and Thursday (I'm in most Wednesdays, all day just for student contacts. Check my office door for my additional scheduled days)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Administration of Criminal Justice/Philosophy 248 for this quarter will be primarily concerned with the search for an ethical foundation upon which the American system of Criminal Justice operates. During the course of this inquiry we will examine numerous societal issues which directly concern the criminal justice practitioner and the application of discretionary powers.

This course will also expose you to several analytic frameworks from which the American system of justice and the art of policing in particular, may be studied. Some of these views may not fit your current understanding of the way the system functions. However, it is critical that you at least understand and become familiar with conflicting and/or divergent perspectives regarding this subtlety...

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to conduct an analysis of the criminal justice system and to stimulate your critical thinking concerning the hidden and visible dilemmas facing the police practitioner's occupational culture. Consideration of the moral quality of justice administration alters our perspective of that system which so heavily influences the overall health and well being of its practitioners and their clientele. Key points which will be addressed in this class are as follows:

1. Criminal Justice Ethics: A Survey of Philosophical Theories.
2. Individual Rights v. Social Utility: The Search for the Golden Zigzag between Conflicting Fundamental Values.

3. Ethical Issues in Policing: Deception by Police, Ethical Dilemmas, Learning Police Ethics.
4. The Paradox of Policing: The Moral Foundation of Policing, The Enforcement v. The Enforcement of Morality.
5. Crime Control v. Due Process: The Primary Stressors of the Policing Function.
6. The Development of a Personal "Bottom Line": Is Policing for You, Suggestions to Preserve Your Personal Value System.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS CLASS IS TAUGHT IN A "HYBRID LEARNING" MODE. THIS MEANS CLASS USUALLY MEETS ONLY ON TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. THERE WILL BE A "SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS" SHEET HANDED OUT WITH THIS SYLLABUS, PLEASE TAKE EXTRA TIME TO READ IT AS IT WILL DETAIL DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING THE WEBSITE WHERE MUCH OF THIS CLASS WILL BE CONDUCTED.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

"Police Ethics": The Corruption of Noble Cause. Michael Caldero and John Crank, 2nd Edition, Anderson Publishing.

RECOMMENDED READING SCHEDULE:

The text contains many of the ethical issues, theories, and perspectives that will be discussed in class. I highly recommend you pay considerable attention to the contents of this work. Specifically, read the recommended text in its entirety by the third week of class. Out of class reading assignments will be assigned as the class progresses.

GRADES: Your final grade for this course will be developed in the following manner. Two "in class" examinations and one "take home exam" will be given in this class, each of which will account for a total of 100 points. The average of those exams will determine a total "exam score". The first "in class" exam will be given on October 16, the second "in class" exam will be given on November 6th and the "take home" exam will be turned in on December 4th in hard copy form, IN CLASS. These dates will also be posted on the class website. In addition, a project paper (called "MY Ethical Bottom Line") will be required which will be scored differently (see below). The format and content of this paper will be discussed in great detail as class progresses.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

* It is very important that you carefully note the instructions given during the first introductory hours of this class. If, for some reason you have missed that particular period contact a member of the class for a copy of the notes or see me in my office.

* DO NOT miss the first few days of class, they set the perspective for the rest of the class and are essential for the development of your paper. (SEE SPECIAL COMMENT)

Do Not leave the room with questions concerning how this class will be conducted on your mind, "know what you are getting into".

SPECIAL COMMENT

At the beginning of this class an undercover police scenario is conducted. During this presentation language is used which may be considered obscene or otherwise offensive to some. If you believe the use of such language will be personally offensive you may NOT wish to be present. PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXERCISE IS NOT MANDATORY, however, it is an important part of the overall classroom presentation. SEE ME PRIOR TO THE SECOND DAY OF CLASS IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS OR APPREHENSIONS CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

GRADING DETAILS

The "Bottom Line" paper will be graded on its content, attention to grammar, spelling, and its structure. In addition, it will be typed, at least five (5) pages in length, and double spaced. It will also be stapled together **without** a cover. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOTTOM LINE PAPER WILL BE POSTED ON THE CLASS WEBSITE. PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEM AS THE FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOW PRECISELY.**

Your "Bottom Line" paper generates a score which can either take your cumulative test average up five (5) points or down ten (10) points. That's right, if you fail to do the paper, or, if you do an unsatisfactory job, as much as ten (10) points will be deducted from your cumulative score after all three exams are added up and the total divided by three. On the other hand, if you do a good job as much as five points could be **added to** your cumulative score. The details of how this paper is to be constructed and the subject matter will be posted on the class website and discussed extensively in class, please pay careful attention to these instructions. The due date for the paper will also be announced in class and posted on the website.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:

There are several ways to earn extra credit points during this course. The first is "Big L" points. These points are acquired each time you respond **in class** to a question that substantially contributes to the course subject material. (This usually means you have prepared yourself by reading the text and doing the assignments and/or researching relevant material). Second, is to post on the Vista Bulletin Board a response to an **extra credit topic**. These topics are given out in class so be sure to watch for them. Here is the procedure you must adhere to in order to receive credit for your posting. 1. Research the topic, write a paragraph or two describing the information you have found and state your opinion of it. 2. Post the paragraph and the article, link, etc., you have located. If your posting is noteworthy for

the class I will respond to you in the Vista email site with the instructions to "print and bring" your posting. You will print out your posting and **write your first and last name across the top**. You will then bring the posting to the next class session and turn it in to me. All Big L and Extra Credit points are cumulative grade points; this means that after your exams are averaged these points are added to your score. You can readily see how valuable these points can be to your final grade.

ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be three (3) assignments in this class which **MUST BE COMPLETED**. Each assignment will consist of a five page paper, typed, double spaced. These assignments must be completed in a timely manner (two weeks after they are assigned). You will **NOT** be graded for these assignments, however, **IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE ALL THREE OF THEM TEN POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR CUMULATIVE GRADE SCORE**. These assignments are not difficult but require you to pay careful attention to small details, please do not take them lightly. The topic of these assignments and they due dates will be posted on the class bulletin board on the **vista** website. **Pay special attention to the attachment requirements which will be posted on the website as these papers must posted on the website**. Please note that if you submit a paper that is not acceptable it will be returned to you for re-submittal. You have one week to do the re-write.

If you want more information regarding any aspect of this class please raise your hand or see me after class.

SPECIAL NOTE: THERE ARE SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR THIS CLASS WHICH ARE ONLY DISCUSSED OR ASSIGNED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF THE VISTA WEBSITE, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK IT REGULARLY.

GRADING POLICY:

A	=	100-97%	C+	=	80-77%
A-	=	96-93%	C	=	76-73%
B+	=	92-89%	C-	=	72-69%
B	=	88-85%	D+	=	68-65%
B-	=	84-81%	D	=	64-61%
			F	=	60% OR LESS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS GRADING PROCEDURE PLEASE CONTACT ME AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.