

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Criminal Justice Program
Revision Date: 08-19-24

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM2240
Course Title: Ethics in Criminal Justice
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: Examines ethical issues that arise in the three major components of criminal justice. General philosophical theories of ethics as well as Code of Ethics that operate to control the institutional and personal behavior of police, courts, and correctional systems.

Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. To broaden the student's understanding of and appreciation for ethical problems and issues in the criminal justice system.
- B. To empower students in evaluating and advocating the need for reform when necessary.
- C. To explore the conflict and distinctions between legal requirements, personal morality and ethical principles and beliefs.
- D. To enhance student understanding of the ethical dilemmas faced by professionals in the Criminal Justice System.
- E. To enable students to balance competing values, theories and concepts and apply them to ethical situations involving conflicts between Government and the individual.
- F. To evaluate moral and ethical decisions based on one's cultural values and beliefs.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Identify current problems and issues relating to ethical behavior in the criminal justice system.
 - 2. Assess and evaluate the ethical dilemmas faced by professionals in the criminal justice system.
 - 3. Apply competing values, theories, policies and concepts to real and hypothetical problems in the criminal justice system.
 - 4. Analyze ethical situations involving conflicts between government and the individual.
 - 5. Explain and justify moral and ethical decisions based on one's cultural values and beliefs.
 - 6. Construct and evaluate arguments on ethical issues.
 - 7. Distinguish between ethical and legal principles.
 - 8. Appraise current literature and developments regarding moral and ethical issues in criminal justice.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):
 - 1. GELO 1: Speech Communication
Outcome 4: Competently communicate messages – both verbally and nonverbally – to a variety of audience types and in a variety of situations.
 - 2. GELO 2: Written Communication
Outcome 5: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.

3. GELO 3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome 2: Synthesis information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
4. GELO 4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
Outcome 5: Identify and evaluate different theoretical or philosophical perspectives and their relevance to ethical decision-making.
5. GELO 6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome 7: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Morality, Ethics, and Human Behavior
- B. Moral Behavior
- C. Justice and Law
- D. Becoming an Ethical Professional
- E. The Police Role in Society
- F. Police Discretion and Dilemmas
- G. Police Corruption and Responses
- H. Law and Legal Professionals
- I. Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession
- J. Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses
- K. The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections
- L. Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections
- M. Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses
- N. Making Ethical Choices

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s): Pollock, Jocelyn, M. *Ethical dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice*, Current Edition, Cengage.
- B. Other Resources: Varies by instructor

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following: Lecture, Electronic Presentation, Demonstrations, Video/Audio Presentations, Case Studies, Field Trips, Website(s), Course books, Articles, Collaborative Discussion, Group Projects, Other resources.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following: Practical Application, Homework Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Papers & Presentations, Discussion, Other Projects.
- B. SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
		F	Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. See Instructor's course outline.