

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Fall 2012**  
**SYLLABUS**

**CJUS 3700D: ETHICS (3 Hrs)**

<b>Department of</b>	<b>Urban and Public Leadership</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Urban and Professional Studies</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Gretchen H. Choe, J.D., M.S.C.J.</i>		
<b>Office Location:</b>	<i>DAL2 317</i>		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<i>972-338-1840</i>		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<i>Gretchen.choe@unt.edu</i>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>M 10:00-12:00, 1:00-6:00; T 4:00-7:00; W 12:00-1:00, 4:00-5:00 and by appointment</b>		
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	<i>By appointment</i>		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<i>Founders Hall (DAL2) 307</i>		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:50 PM</b>		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	This course examines ethical issues facing those working within the criminal justice system. Problems confronting academics and researchers, policy-makers, the police, the courts and the juvenile and adult correctional systems (institutional and community) will be addressed.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>CJUS 2100 or equivalent</b>		
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Required Text:</b>	Pollock, Joycelyn M. (2010). <i>Ethical Dilemmas &amp; Decisions in Criminal Justice</i> (7 <sup>th</sup> ed.) . Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.		
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	Articles in <i>Criminal Justice Ethics</i> , journal available through UNT Dallas electronic library and at <a href="http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/cje/html/cje.html">http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/cje/html/cje.html</a> .		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fheg.follett.com">1012mgr@fheg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			
	During this course, students will be asked to demonstrate their depth of understanding of the variety of human experience and gain the capacity to see situations from another's view point, as well as to articulate the values that undergird students' lives, the UNT Dallas community and the larger society. Students will learn decision making strategies that include an ethical analysis and will cultivate self-awareness, balance and an on-going openness to change. Students will be required to think critically and creatively, and to communicate effectively.		
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> At the end of this course, the student will be able to:			
1	Define critical terms related to the study of ethics in the criminal justice system		
2	Describe and apply different ethical systems to human behavior, while demonstrating a working understanding about how we, as individuals, make decisions about what we consider "ethical" behavior		

3	Communicate multiple and opposing perspectives on ethical dilemmas presented
4	Demonstrate a working understanding of ethical issues arising within the criminal justice system and policy-making

### Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and via announcements or emails in Blackboard.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
First day of class; discuss syllabus and course expectations Ch. 1 – Morality, Ethics and Human Behavior Ch. 2 – Determining Moral Behavior	8/29/2011
Ch. 2 – Determining Moral Behavior (con't.) Ch. 3 – Justice and Law	9/5/2011
Ch. 4 – Becoming an Ethical Professional Exam Review	9/12/2011
<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>9/19/2011</b>
Ch. 5 – The Police Role in Society	9/26/2011
Ch. 6 – Police Discretion and Dilemmas	10/3/2011
Ch. 7 – Police Corruption and Misconduct Exam Review	10/10/2011
<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>10/17/2011</b>
Ch. 8 – Law and Legal Professionals	10/24/2011
Ch. 9 – Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession	10/31/2011
Ch. 10 – Ethical Misconduct in the Courts and Responses Exam Review	11/7/2011
<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>11/14/2011</b>
Ch. 11 – The Ethics of Punishment and Corrections	11/21/2011
Ch. 12 – Discretion and Dilemmas in Corrections <b>Reaction papers due at the BEGINNING of class – do not be late!</b>	11/28/2011
Ch. 13 – Correctional Professionals: Misconduct and Responses Exam Review	12/5/2011
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Wednesday, 12/12/2011 1-3 p.m.</b>

### Course Evaluation Methods

*This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.*

**Discussions**  
**Reaction paper**  
**Four exams**

**Grading Matrix:**

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Discussions	10%	10%
Reaction paper	10%	10%
Exam 1	20%	20%
Exam 2	20%	20%
Exam 3	20%	20%
Final exam	20%	20%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Grade Determination:**

- A ≥ 90%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F < 60%

**Exam Policy:**

Four exams will be given. You must bring a #2 pencil and a green scantron form with you for each exam. The exams may consist of multiple choice, definition, matching, true/false, and short answer questions. You can also expect there to be an essay question with an ethical dilemma for you to evaluate on each exam. If the exams are not given online, paper will be provided with the exam for you to write on. **There will be no make-up exams unless you have a university-recognized emergency and notify me prior to the exam that you will have to reschedule.** If a make-up exam is permitted, the student must take it within one week of the original exam date.

**NO CELL PHONES WILL BE PERMITTED DURING THE EXAMS. YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 10-POINT DEDUCTION ON YOUR EXAM FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS RULE. THIS INCLUDES A RINGING OR AUDIBLY VIBRATING CELL PHONE OR USE OF TEXT MESSAGES.** As a courtesy, please do not bring food or drink to class during exams. During exams, ALL ITEMS other than what is needed to take the exam (exam, scantron, and a pencil) must be under your desk.

You will have an hour and fifteen minutes to complete the exam once it starts. No additional time will be given if you are late. There is typically a bonus question on each exam. However, if you are late for an exam that has a bonus question on it, you will forfeit the privilege to receive those points.

**Discussions policy:**

You will be required to participate in discussions online as well as in class. Students will be placed into groups for each module. Within each group, each student is required to:

- Initiate at least one unique online discussion topic relevant to the four modules\*\*, and
- Respond to at least two discussion topics posted by other students in their group within each module.

As time allows, group discussions for each module will be discussed in class during exam review sessions so that other groups can consider and contribute to their classmates' discussions.

\*\*The final module (on corrections) will not be graded so that students may focus on their reflection papers, but quality participation in the fourth module will be considered if a student's discussion grade is borderline.

Please do not submit questions related to specific personal concerns to the discussion forums, even if presented as hypothetical situations. Questions related to relevant current events in the news (if related to the course) are permitted, and students are also encouraged to use the Criminal Justice Ethics journal and other scholarly sources for topical ideas. Students must demonstrate originality and thought in their proposed topics. Each topic and response will be evaluated on a 0-5-point scale:

0. No topic or response was provided during the module
1. Original post or responsive post contributes no evidence of reflective thought regarding the course content, personal perspectives, opposing perspectives, or professional development, to the discussion. Uses significant "txt spk" instead of appropriate grammar and spelling.

2. Some evidence of independent and reflective thought, but mostly pertains to personal opinion unsupported by course content. Uses some “txt spk” instead of appropriate grammar and spelling.
3. Average contribution with some evidence of original thought supported by course content; shows general respect for peers’ contributions but does not contemplate them in the response. Some reflection on professional development.
4. Above average contributions that contemplate opposing views respectfully and sensitively to peers’ viewpoints, while supporting personal opinions with evidence or other external sources; relate to the further professional development of students.
5. Excellent contribution that proposes a unique ethical dilemma or synthesizes information from many different viewpoints, includes external sources, and contemplates both long- and short-term consequences and policy implications of the ethical decision-making process.

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit or restrict lively debate or discussion of additional topics of interest to the class, so long as students remain respectful. Discussions unrelated to the module should be kept separate from the module discussions. Please remain on topic within each thread of discussion (responding to a specific thread within the thread, rather than responding or starting a different thread to respond).

Initial postings are due two weeks before the exam for that module. Responsive discussions are due for each module prior to the exam for that module. The average score for discussions during the semester will be your discussion grade.

#### **Assignment policy:**

Every student must complete a 2- to 3-page, double-spaced reaction paper at the end of the course. The paper must address how exposure to different ideas, perspectives, cultures and viewpoints have enriched the student’s thinking; articulating the decision making strategies (including ethical analysis) learned; and how what has been learned in the student’s academic career will encourage them to recognize and be open to constructive change. It should be organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion, and should be written from the student’s perspective. It must also contain the honor code statement given in the section on Academic Integrity below. The reaction paper is due at the beginning of class on November 28, 2011.

The reaction paper will be graded based on content, organization, grammar, punctuation and spelling. I encourage you to utilize the services at the UNT Dallas writing lab to proofread your assignments and maximize the points received. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED – THEY ARE DUE WHEN CLASS STARTS**. If you will not be in class or will be late to class for some reason, email your dilemmas or reaction papers to me **BEFORE** the class in which they are due.

#### **Incompletes:**

Pursuant to University policy, incompletes will not be given unless ALL of the following conditions have been met:

- (1) the student has completed 3/4 of the class
- (2) the student is currently passing the course, and
- (3) the request for an incomplete is pursuant to a University-recognized reason (medical emergency or military deployment).

#### **Extra Credit:**

On occasion, I have assigned extra credit to various classes. If offered, it is a privilege and an opportunity, not a right or an obligation. If extra credit is assigned in class, depending on the nature of the assignment, turnitin.com may be used as a tool. An acknowledgement sheet is required to be submitted to me prior to any assignment due date if turnitin.com is used. I do not give individual extra credit opportunities under any circumstances.

## **University Policies and Procedures**

#### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Founders Hall (Building 2).

**Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

**Academic Integrity:**

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.*

*In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

**Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Attendance is taken. Class attendance and participation is expected and assessed because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes if they are absent.*

**Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.*

**Use of WebCT/Blackboard:**

*I utilize Blackboard extensively to communicate announcements, provide additional readings of interest, facilitate discussion topics, email individual students, and for other reasons as may be appropriate during the semester. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly throughout the semester.*

**Additional Policies and Procedures****Use of Cell Phones, Laptops & other Electronics in the Classroom:**

*I do not prohibit the use of electronics in the classroom as a general rule. I trust that most students are using these devices to further their education and for educational purposes during class. However, if it comes to my attention that these devices are creating a distraction to yourself or to other students, I reserve the right to change this policy by communicating such a change in class and through Blackboard.*

**Food & Drink in the Classroom:**

*I do not prohibit food or drink the classroom during classes, but as a courtesy to your fellow test takers, please do not bring food or drink during exams. If this becomes a distraction during class, I reserve the right to change this policy by communicating such a change in class and through Blackboard.*

**Disruptions:**

*I reserve the right to ask anyone who is creating a disruption during class to leave the room. Please be respectful of your fellow students. Come to class on time and stay until class ends. Students constantly coming into and leaving the classroom during class create a distracting environment for the other students as well as the instructor. While classroom questions and discussion are encouraged, continually interrupting lectures with commentary may also be disruptive.*

**Legal Questions:**

*In my capacity as the instructor of record for this course, it would create a potential conflict of interest if I were to render legal opinions regarding specific circumstances. As such, if you have specific questions of a legal nature, please seek appropriate legal advice. The UNT legal services office is available to UNT Dallas students, and the website is <http://studentlegal.unt.edu/>. You can also get referrals from the Dallas Bar Association if you live in Dallas County (<https://www2.dallasbar.org/referral/>) and through the State Bar of Texas referral service for outside of Dallas County ([http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Other\\_Lawyer\\_Referral\\_Services](http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Other_Lawyer_Referral_Services)). There are also clinical programs and law libraries at the courthouse and SMU and Texas Wesleyan University law schools that might have resources available to assist you.*