Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration & Human Services Department

Course Prefix and Number: CJAD 345

Course Title: Ethics and Morality in Criminal Justice

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: The study of the decision making process in criminal justice as it relates to discretion, due process, truthfulness, corruption, and discrimination. Prerequisites: CJAD 101 and junior standing. Offered even Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): CJAD 101 and junior standing.

Text(s):

Many suitable textbooks are available from various publishers and the following list is not comprehensive. Other textbooks may be judged by individual instructors to be more suitable in meeting Course Objectives. Many current textbooks have companion websites, and the instructor is encouraged to enhance the course experience for the student by utilizing available technology.


Course Objectives:

- To understand and appreciate ethical problems and issues in the criminal justice system.
- To evaluate and advocate the need for reform when necessary.
- To explore the conflict and distinctions between legal requirements, personal morality and ethical principles and beliefs.
- To understand the ethical dilemmas faced by professionals in the criminal justice system.
- To balance competing values, theories and concepts and apply them to ethical situations involving conflicts between government and the individual.
- To evaluate moral and ethical decisions based on one’s cultural values and beliefs.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Identify current problems and issues relating to ethical behavior in the criminal justice system.
- Assess and evaluate the ethical dilemmas faced by professionals in the criminal justice system.
- Apply competing values, theories, policies and concepts to real and hypothetical problems in the criminal justice system.
• Analyze ethical situations involving conflicts between government and the individual.
• Explain and justify moral and ethical decisions based on one’s cultural values and beliefs.
• Construct and evaluate arguments on ethical issues.
• Distinguish between ethical and legal principles.
• Appraise current literature and developments regarding moral and ethical issues in criminal justice.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):
• Introduction to ethics in criminal justice
• Due process
• The individual: Discretion and decision making
• Loyalty
• Truth
• Corruption
• Use of force
• Punishment
• Race, gender, and discrimination
• The institution: criminal justice administration
• Ethics and the realities of life

Material from this course may be tested on the Major Field Test (MFT) administered during the Culminating Experience course for the degree.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Joseph Carrier, Ph.D.

Date: September 12, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
12/04