

ADMJ170 : Ethics in Law Enforcement

General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Curtis G Potter
Course Code (CB01) :	ADMJ170
Course Title (CB02) :	Ethics in Law Enforcement
Department:	ADMJ
Proposal Start:	Spring 2025
TOP Code (CB03) :	(2105.00) Administration of Justice
CIP Code:	(43.0107) Criminal Justice/Police Science.
SAM Code (CB09) :	Clearly Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	No
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000527768
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	05/22/2024
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	07/16/2024
Last Cyclical Review Date:	05/22/2024
Course Description and Course Note:	ADMJ 170 defines the principles of a person's character as they relate to ethics. It examines how ethical choices impact the professional law enforcement environment and the subsequent effect on police service. Additionally, the course considers how character and personal values influence the training, supervision, management, and leadership of successful law enforcement organizations. This course addresses the implications of societal changes and the challenges they create in modern police work.
Justification:	Mandatory Revision
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit
Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Curtis G Potter

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Administration of Justice (Police science, corrections, law enforcement)
Alternate Discipline:	No value
Alternate Discipline:	No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)	Course Special Class Status (CB13)	Grading Basis
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Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

• Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

Transferability & Gen. Ed. Options

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to CSU only

Transferability Status

Approved

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07)	3
Maximum Credit Units (CB06)	3
Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	54
Total Course Out-of-Class Hours	108
Total Student Learning Hours	162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

Variable Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Not Applicable.

Cooperative Work Experience Education

Status (CB10)

Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	3	6
Laboratory Hours	0	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks)	18
Hours per unit divisor	0
Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	
Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0

Total 54

Course Out-of-Class Hours

Lecture 108

Laboratory 0

Studio 0

Total 108

Time Commitment Notes for Students

No value

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, Anti-requisites and Advisories

Advisory

ADMJ101 - Introduction To The Administration Of Justice (in-development)

Objectives

- Summarize the history and progress of efforts to reduce the effects of racism in the criminal justice system.
- Recognize a sense for the importance of education, training and professionalism in the justice system.
- Name and describe the steps in the criminal adjudication process that involve the police, the courts, and corrections.

AND

Advisory

ESL141 - Grammar And Writing IV

Objectives

- Compose a 400 to 450-word thesis-based essay which: (a) summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage provided as a prompt, (b) includes a clear thesis statement, (c) uses evidence to support the thesis, (d) shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion, and (e) uses appropriate rhetorical modes such as comparison/contrast, cause/effect, and persuasion in order to support a thesis.

OR

Advisory

ENGL101 - Introduction to College Reading and Composition

Objectives

- Read, analyze, and evaluate a variety of primarily non-fiction readings for content, context, and rhetorical merit with consideration of tone, audience, and purpose.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.

Entry Standards

Entry Standards

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course

Specifications

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction Lecture

Methods of Instruction Discussion

Methods of Instruction Multimedia

Methods of Instruction Collaborative Learning

Methods of Instruction Presentations

Out of Class Assignments

- Reading
- Research current events related to ethical issues and changes in law enforcement

Methods of Evaluation

Exam/Quiz/Test

Rationale

Mid-term essay examination

Exam/Quiz/Test

Final essay examination

Textbook Rationale

This is the latest edition of this book

Textbooks

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
Perez, Douglas W.	Police Ethics, A Matter of Character	Cengage Learning	2013	978-1-111-54451-5

Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)

No Value

Materials Fee

No value

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Course Objectives

Define ethics, morality, values, and virtue.

Perform self-assessment of character traits.

Analyze ethical dilemmas encountered in the law enforcement and/or corrections fields and decide on the correct ethical choice.

Articulate the challenges facing the police service related to the requirements of community policing, advancements in technology, and the need for professionalism and accountability.

Assess their individual character traits and how they impact one's life.

List the potential stakeholders involved in decisions made by peace officers.

Compare ethical accountability strategies used by law enforcement.

SLOs

Describe ethical decision-making processes.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

ILOs Practice ethical and responsible behavior within personal, academic, professional, social, and societal contexts; recognize and welcome diverse lifestyle choices that promote physical, intellectual, psychological, and social well-being.
Core ILOs

Explain the ethical challenges facing law enforcement.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

ILOs Practice ethical and responsible behavior within personal, academic, professional, social, and societal contexts; recognize and welcome diverse lifestyle choices that promote physical, intellectual, psychological, and social well-being.
Core ILOs

Define character and explain how it is developed and perceived by others.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

ILOs Practice ethical and responsible behavior within personal, academic, professional, social, and societal contexts; recognize and welcome diverse lifestyle choices that promote physical, intellectual, psychological, and social well-being.
Core ILOs

Additional SLO Information

Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?

No

Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?

No

If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.

No Value

SLO Evidence

No Value

Course Content

Lecture Content

History and Overview (4 hours)

- The human condition
 - Needs, emotions, and choices
- Setting and achieving goals
- Success vs. significance
- Definitions
 - Values
 - Morals
 - Ethics
- Why be ethical?
- Ethics in law enforcement

- Unique choices
- Many stakeholders
- IACP Report
- The importance of liberal arts
- Good person, good officer
- Brief history of man
 - Religious influences
 - The Greek Classics
 - Socrates
 - Plato
 - Aristotle
- Studying ethics
 - Meta ethics
 - Normative ethics
 - Applied ethics
- Ethical Formalism
- Utilitarianism

Ethics in Law Enforcement (2 hours)

- Historical context
- Community Oriented Policing
- Concepts of justice
- Discretionary decision making
- Competence and professionalism
- Sir Robert Peel
 - Metropolitan Police of London
 - Peel's Principles

The Importance of Ethical Leadership (2 hours)

- The role of values and discretion
- Ethical leader defined
- Ethical leadership competencies
- Police officer leadership competencies

Policing and Professional Conduct (3 hours)

- Policing as a profession
- The nature of police work
 - Stereotyping
 - Discretion
 - Officer anomie
 - Due Process
 - The Rule of Law
 - Norms, values, rules, and laws
 - Moralizing
- The use of power
- The police subculture
- Paradoxes in police work

Public Trust and Perceptions (3 hours)

- The value of public trust
- Speech and interpersonal communications
- Cross-cultural communications
- Media relations
- Development and retention of public trust
- Loss of public trust and its consequences
- The "code of silence"

Community Policing (1 hour)

- Community policing defined
- Context for community policing
- Working with diversity
- Values based policing

Character Development (3 hours)

- What is character?
- Character and virtue
- Moral judgment

- Justice
 - Substantive
 - Procedural
- Defining good
- Academic intelligence vs. emotional intelligence
- Emotion and empathy
- Duration of character development

Ethical Decision Making and Problem Solving (3 hours)

- Ethical decision making
 - The Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment (SARA) Model
 - The bell, the book, and the candle
 - The A.C.T. Model (Alternatives, Consequences, Tell your story)
 - The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Model
 - The Potter Box
- Problem solving in groups
- Barriers to problem solving
- Ethical dilemmas
 - When beneficence conflicts with justice
 - Vagueness and overbreadth
 - American inequities

Officer Effectiveness (3 hours)

- Recruitment, selection, and training
- Officer competency and character
- Character training in the police academy
- Peace officer rights
- The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

Police Misconduct (4 hours)

- Standards of conduct
- Basic types of police deviance
- Grass eating vs. meat eating
- The Slippery Slope
- Noble Cause Corruption
- Ineptitude
- Off-duty conduct
- The continuum of deception
- Causes of misconduct
- Excessive force
- Accountability strategies
 - Leadership
 - Police review systems
 - Early Intervention Systems (EIS)

Character Case Studies (6 hours)

- Michael Carona
- The Rampart Scandal
- Operation Big Spender

The Josephson Institute (9 hours)

- Ethical decisions
- Obstacles to ethical decision-making
- An exemplary peace officer
- The "Six Pillars of Character"
- Characteristics of an exemplary peace officer
- Making exemplary decisions

Twenty-First Century Issues of Police Work (5 hours)

- Civil liability
- Officer safety and survival
- Politics and the police
- Urban decay
- Working with diverse populations
- Technology advancements
- The help and hindrance of video camera proliferation

- Change
 - In American society
 - In law enforcement

Racism and Racial Profiling (6 hours)

- Definitions of racial profiling, bias, hate, prejudice, and stereotype
 - Wisdom Model, Modern Thinking, Post-Modern Thought
- Definition of racism and systemic (or institutional) racism
- Historical perspective of racism
 - *Plessy v. Ferguson* – “Separate but equal”
 - Jim Crow laws
 - School segregation
 - Housing covenants
 - Civil rights efforts to eliminate racism
- Expectations of law enforcement by the community
 - Social Contract Theory
 - Law enforcement interactions with the community
 - Racism by proxy
 - Unconscious bias
 - Implicit Bias Testing
 - Ways to address personal biases and prejudices when working with diverse populations
 - “Justice”
 - Outcome vs. Process
 - Lady Justice's blindfold
 - “No justice, no peace”
 - Relations with the LGBTQIA community
 - Relations with persons with disabilities
 - Protesting vs. rioting
- Privilege and perspective
 - Definition of privilege
 - Community perception of privilege
 - Law enforcement perception of privilege
 - Impact to community relationships
- Policy policies and enforcement
 - Use of force
 - Legal basis for use of force (PC 835a)
 - Use of force decision making and outcomes
 - Community perception/reaction when force is used
 - Excessive and unlawful use of force by police
 - Community responses - Protest vs. unrest
 - The requirement to comply (PC 148)
 - Stop and detention
 - Reasonable suspicion and probable cause (*Terry vs. Ohio*)
 - Community perception of probable cause stops
 - Criminal profiling vs. racial profiling
- Police department budgets
 - Legal procedure for funding police departments
 - Community response - re-directing police funding
- Law enforcement training systems
 - Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)
 - Citizen academies
- Transparency and trust
- Identifying problem officers
- Emerging issues

Total hours: 54

Additional Information

Is this course proposed for GCC Major or General Education Graduation requirement? If yes, indicate which requirement in the two areas provided below.

No

GCC Major Requirements

No Value

GCC General Education Graduation Requirements

No Value

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Resources

Did you contact your departmental library liaison?

Yes

If yes, who is your departmental library liaison?

Adina Lerner (Technology & Aviation, Visual & Performing Arts)

Did you contact the DEIA liaison?

Yes

Were there any DEIA changes made to this outline?

No

If yes, in what areas were these changes made:

No Value

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value