

REL 332  
RELIGION 332: ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INSTRUCTOR: THE REV. DR. VINCENT O'NEILL, 626-1306

PM FD-00

SOURCES:

The course will draw on many sources including: selected articles, essays, and videos on topics of moral concern in the criminal justice system. The canons of ethics of police, attorneys, the judiciary, and corrections will be studied. The course will be approached from the perspective of Christian moral theology and social justice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

To examine critically certain moral problems in selected areas of the Criminal Justice System.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Ethics and Criminal Justice is an upper level course in Religious Studies. The purpose of this course is to equip each student to think morally and critically by the study and application of Christian theological principles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected:

1. To attend class and participate in class discussions and interaction.
2. To read reflectively the materials on each topic.
3. To provide the instructor with a written summary of each article as indicated. The summary should include ideas which were of particular interest to the student.
4. To make a short verbal presentation to the class on an area of criminal justice which is of particular interest to the student. The topic will be approached from the ethical/moral/theological perspective.
5. To complete a term paper on an issue of Ethics and Criminal Justice which is of particular interest to the student. It will be due on the last class.

AUG. 29 INTRODUCTION; DEFINITIONS; TERMINOLOGY; CASE STUDY

AUG. 31 OPEN FORUM; TERMINOLOGY; CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PRINCIPLES;  
CASE STUDY

SEPT. 5 OPEN FORUM; FOUNDATIONS FOR ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEPT. 7 OPEN FORUM; FOUNDATIONS FOR ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEPT. 12 OPEN FORUM; FOUNDATIONS FOR ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEPT. 14 OPEN FORUM; A MODEL FOR MAKING MORAL JUDGMENTS

SEPT. 19 EXAM #1

SEPT. 21 OPEN FORUM; CANONS OF POLICE ETHICS; ARTICLE - "JOURNEY  
TO JUSTICE"; CASE STUDY - "BILL BRAVE".

SEPT. 26 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "WHY HAS AMERICAN SOCIETY BECOME  
SO VIOLENT?"; VIDEO - "ABNER LOUIMA"

SEPT. 28 OPEN FORUM; VIDEO - "BEHIND THE BADGE"

3 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "DEFENDING THE POOR";  
CASE STUDY - "THE ILLEGALS"

OCT. 5 OPEN FORUM; CANONS FOR ATTORNEYS;  
VIDEO - "MEDIA AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM"

- OCT. 10 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "CRIMINALIZING THE MENTALLY ILL"; CASE STUDY - "WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE"
- OCT. 12 OPEN FORUM; VIDEO - "LOST BEHIND BARS"
- OCT. 17 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLES - "SICK BEHIND BARS", "PRISONS AND AGING"
- OCT. 19 OPEN FORUM; VIDEO - "YOUNG PREDATORS"
- OCT. 24 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "SENTENCING, RACE, AND THE POOR"; CASE STUDY - "PROSECUTING ATTORNEY"
- OCT. 26 OPEN FORUM; VIDEO - "HARD TIMES"
- OCT. 31 OPEN FORUM; EXAM # 2
- NOV. 2 OPEN FORUM; CANONS FOR JUDGES; VIDEO - "BAD JUDGMENTS"
- NOV. 7 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "JUVENILE JUSTICE AND THE DOUBLE STANDARD"; CASE STUDY - "JUDGE RIGHTEOUS"
- NOV. 9 OPEN FORUM; CANONS FOR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS; VIDEO - "WOMEN IN PRISON"
- NOV. 14 OPEN FORUM; CASE STUDIES - "CORRECTIONS OFFICER", "PAROLE OFFICER"

NOV. 16 OPEN FORUM; VIDEO - "PAROLE N.Y.C."

NOV. 21 OPEN FORUM; ARTICLE - "PUNISHING THE YOUNG";  
CASE STUDIES - "JASON JUMBLE", "MAGGIE MULLARKEY"

NOV. 28 OPEN FORUM - VIDEO - "TO DEFEND A KILLER"

NOV. 30 OPEN FORUM - ARTICLES - DEATH PENALTY ARTICLES  
VIDEO - "CAPITAL PUNISHMENT N.Y.C."

DEC. 5 OPEN FORUM; TERM PAPERS DUE;  
VIDEO - "DEAD MAN WALKING - LOUISIANA"

DEC. 7 COURSE SUMMARY

#### GRADING

TERM PAPER - 40%

ARTICLES + CASE STUDIES - 30%

EXAMS - 30%

ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED FOR ALL CLASSES

EACH STUDENT WILL MAKE TWO COPIES OF REPORTS ON  
EACH ARTICLE AND CASE STUDY. ONE COPY WILL BE  
SUBMITTED ON THE DAY AS NOTED IN THE SYLLABUS.

A SIMILAR REPORT WILL BE MADE ON EACH VIDEO  
AND SUBMITTED ON THE TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE VIDEO.