

RELIGION 332⁶⁰ ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INSTRUCTOR: THE REV. DR. VINCENT O'NEILL, 626-1306

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.

Ethics and Criminal Justice

1. Introduction To The Course
 - Christian Social Principles (handout)
 - Terminology (handout)
 - The Bill of Rights (Handout)
 - A Society Without Ethics (handout)
 - Liberal and Conservative Perspectives (lecture)
 - Various Ethical Systems (handout)
 - Four Ethical Responses (handout)
 - Canon of Ethics for Police, Attorneys, Judiciary, Corrections (handout)
 - Understanding Human Nature - Genesis 1-11 (lecture)
 - Human Moral Development (handout and lecture)
 - Levels of Moral Development (handout)
 - Articles and Case Studies (handouts)
 - Video - Crime In The Suites

2. Open Forum
 - Canon of Police Ethics
 - Video - Behind The Badge
 - Case Study - Bill Brave (groups)
 - Article - Perception of Evil (written response & discussion)
 - Case Study - The Illegals (groups)
 - Article - Why Has American Society Become So Violent? (written response & discussion)
 - Video - Police Under Fire

3. Canon of Attorneys Ethics
 - Video - I Confess
 - Case Study - Witness For The Defense (groups)
 - Video - Media And The Criminal Justice System
 - Article - Defending The Poor: A Harder Task (written response & discussion)
 - Case Study - The Jury (groups)

4. Open Forum
Judiciary Canons
Case study - Prosecuting Attorney
Article - Criminalizing The Mentally Ill
(written response & discussion)
Video - Bad Judgments
Case Study - Judge Righteous (groups)
Article - Sentencing, Race, And The Poor

5. Open Forum
Corrections Canons
Video - Lost Behind Bars
Articles - Sick Behind Bars and Prisons
(written response & discussion)
Case Study - Correction Officer
Video - Hard Times
Term Paper topic selection due

6. Open Forum
Video - Juvenile Justice
Hawaii Youth Gangs (discussion)
Article - Punishing The Young (written response & discussion)
Case Study - Jason Jumbel (groups)
Video - Young Predators

7. Open Forum
Video - Gangs
Article - Juvenile Justice And The Double Standard
(written response & discussion)
Case Study - Maggie Mullarkey (groups)
Video - Women In Prison
Final - take home exam distributed

8. Open Forum
Video - Parole, N.Y.C.
Case Study - Parole Officer (groups)
Video Domestic Abuse

9. Open Forum
 - Video - Hate Crimes
 - Case Study - Forensics (groups)
 - Articles - Capital Punishment And The Poor, The Death
 - Penalty Debate (written response & discussion)
 - Video - To Defend A Killer
 - Video - Capital Punishment - N.Y.C.

10. Open Forum
 - Video - Capital Punishment
 - Article - Workplace Violence (discussion)
 - Course Summary
 - Final Exam Due
 - Term Paper Due