

RE/C5

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

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 case study, video and article as indicated. The summary should include ideas, which were of particular interest to the student.
4. 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.

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Chaminade University Mission Statement

Chaminade University offers its students an education in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them for life, work and service. Guided by its Catholic, Marianist and liberal arts educational traditions, Chaminade encourages the development of moral character and personal competencies, and the commitment to work toward a just and peaceful society. The University offers the civic and church communities of the Pacific region its academic and intellectual resources in the pursuit of common aims.

This course confronts the many ethical issues in the criminal justice system by the incorporation of the following disciplines:

- 1. Law – Justice, injustice, the legal system**
- 2. Philosophy – Moral philosophy, critical thinking**
- 3. Psychology – Moral development, abnormal psychology, group psychology, mental health**
- 4. Theology – Moral theology, understanding human nature**
- 5. Education – Moral education**
- 6. Sociology – Demographics, cultures, sub-cultures**
- 7. Economics – Crime and economic status**
- 8. Criminology – Theories of crime**

RE 332 Grading System

The grading system is as follows:

- 1. Term Paper - 40%**
- 2. Attendance – 10%**
- 3. Article Responses – 10%**
- 4. Case Study Responses – 10%**
- 5. Video Responses – 10%**
- 6. Two Take-Home Exams – 20%**

Please note: If written responses are not received when due, the instructor reserves the right not to credit the paper. All responses papers are to focus primarily on the ethical issues or dilemmas in the articles, case studies, and videos. Proper grammar and syntax are expected in all written work.

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As we begin this course, please respond in writing to the five following questions.

- 1. What are the major ethical issues in the criminal justice system today?**
- 2. What factors in society greatly affect criminal behavior?**
- 3. What actions might improve the ethical dilemmas in the criminal justice system?**
- 4. How are criminal and victim rights affirmed and protected?**
- 5. Why are moral decisions among the most difficult decisions to make?**

ETHICS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Introduction to the Course
Syllabus and Course Outline
Definition
Grading System
Case – “Patrol Officer”
2. Open Forum
Terminology
3. Open Forum
Bill of Rights
Miranda Warnings
Four Responses to Criminal Justice Issues
Society and Moral Values
Liberal and Conservative Perspectives
4. Open Forum
Understanding Human Nature – Genesis 1-11
Human Moral Development
Moral Positions and Moral Principles
5. Exam #1 – Foundations
6. Open Forum
Police Canons
Video – “Police under Fire”
7. Open Forum
Ethical Issues in Policing
Case – “Bill Brave”
Video – “Suicide by Cop”
8. Open Forum
Video – “Behind the Badge”

9. **Open Forum**
Articles – “My Struggle with Justice”
“Defending the Poor”
Attorneys Canons
Ethical Issues for Attorneys
Case – “Witness for the Defense”
10. **Open Forum**
Video – “I Confess”
11. **Open Forum**
Article – “Sentencing, Race, and the Poor”
Case – “The Jury”
12. **Open Forum**
Video – “Media and the Criminal Justice System”
13. **Open Forum**
Article “Criminalizing the Mentally Ill”
Case – “Prosecuting Attorney”
14. **Open Forum**
Judiciary Canons
Ethical Issues Confronting Judges
Video – “Bad Judgments”
15. **Open Forum**
Article – “Hate Crimes”
Video – “Hate Crimes”
16. **Open Forum**
Video – “Lost Behind Bars”
17. **Open Forum**
Articles – “Sick Behind Bars”
“Prisons as Nursing Homes”
Ethical Issues Confronting Corrections Officers

18. Open Forum

Corrections Canons

Article – “Supermax Prisons”

Video – “Supermax”

19. Open Forum

Articles – “Women and Criminal Justice”

“Women Set Free”

Case – “Maggie Mullarkey”

Term paper topic due in Writing

20. Open Forum

Video – “The Criminally Insane”

21. Open Forum

Articles - “Punishing the Young”

“Suffer the Children”

Case – “Jason Jumble”

22. Open Forum

Video – “Young Predators”

23. Open Forum

**Articles – “Juvenile Justice and the Double
Standard”**

Ethical Issues Confronting Parole Officers

Case – “Parole Officers”

24. Open Forum

Article – “Parole Revisited”

Video – “Parole Officers”

25. Open Forum

Video – “Crime in the Suites”

Article – “Healing the Wounds of Murder”

Video – Restoring Justice

Articles – “Workplace Violence”

“Domestic Violence”

26. Open Forum

Articles – “ A Federal Execution”

“Capital Punishment and the Poor”

Video – “To Defend a Killer”

27. Open Forum

Video – “DNA – A Case of Innocence – Part 1”

28. Open Forum

Video – “DNA – A Case of Innocence – Part 2”

29. Open Forum

Video – “Louisiana – Dead Man Walking”

Term Papers Due