

Las Positas College  
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### Course Outline for AJ 68

### POLICE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

Effective: Fall 2009

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 68 — POLICE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP — 3.00 units

This course will explore the ethical, legal and moral complexities of law enforcement in a democracy. From the initial application process and background investigation of a potential law enforcement recruit, to the working law enforcement officer, the course will examine society's need for ethical behavior and leadership by law enforcement agencies and the personal commitment to ethical behavior and ethical leadership by individual law enforcement officers, both on the job and in their private lives

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Grading Methods:

#### Discipline:

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. demonstrate an understanding the ethical, legal and moral complexities of present day law enforcement;
2. recognize the behaviors that disqualify applicants from law enforcement careers;
3. identify ethical and unethical behavior both on-duty and off-duty;
4. describe the relationship between a diverse society and its police;
5. explain the potential for controversy in a community when faced with suspected unethical behavior by law enforcement;
6. identify key theoretical approaches to ethical leadership as applied to law enforcement;
7. demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between unethical behavior by law enforcement officers and the loss of community trust;
8. explain the causal relationship of an act of corruption by an individual officer and the public's perception of it;
9. demonstrate an understanding of the moral and legal problems hiring persons who lead a questionable moral and ethical life.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduction
- B. Definition of Ethics
  1. What are ethics?
  2. Leadership standards in law enforcement
  3. Are ethical standards different for police officers than for citizens?
  4. Why are law enforcement ethics important for the agency, the officer and the community?
- C. Teaching Ethics in the Academy
  1. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
  2. Professional Standards
  3. Code of Conduct
  4. Oath of Office
- D. Application of Ethics on the Job
  1. The review of applicants for police positions; their demonstrated behavior compared to their real behavior
  2. Enforcing laws in the community
  3. Ethical behavior on patrol
  4. Ethical behavior as an investigator
  5. Personal behavior as it relates to an officer's position
  6. The cost of unethical behavior to the individual officer
  7. The cost of unethical behavior to the community
  8. The difference between "Noble Cause" corruption and corruption for personal gain
  9. The impact of case decisions such as Brady v. Maryland on police behavior
- E. Leadership in Law Enforcement
  1. Definition of leadership
  2. Definition of Management
  3. Ethical leadership

4. Making ethical decisions
5. Moral vs. legal decisions
6. Motivating subordinates
7. Discipline, morale and their effect on officers and the agency
8. How officer morale affects the community-at-large

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. Case studies
- C. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- D. **Lecture** -
- E. **Guest Lecturers** -
- F. **Field Trips** -
- G. Group discussions

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Homework assignment answering questions in assigned chapters. B. Review a video assignment and write an interpretation on the subject of the video. C. Write a paper covering topical areas from a lesson or readings. D. Case study of historical events in law enforcement. E. Follow a current event in the media in preparation for class discussion. F. Ride-along with a local police agencies.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Papers
4. Projects
5. Class Participation

##### B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency of Evaluation
  - a. Weekly discussions
  - b. Periodic written assignments
  - c. Chapter quizzes, midterm, final exam
  - d. End of semester evaluation of research paper or project

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. John C. Crank and Michael A. Caldero *Ethics, The Corruption of the Noble Cause*, Anderson Publishing Co, 2004.
2. Dr. Larry F. Jetmore *The Path of the Warrior: An Ethical Guide to Personal and Professional Development in the Field of Criminal Justice*, Looseleaf Law Publishing Group, 2005.
3. Oren Harari *The Powell Principles: 24 lessons from Collin Powell, a Battle Proven Leader*, McGraw-Hill, 2004.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: