

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 68

POLICE ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

Effective: Fall 2018

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:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Administration of Justice

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

- Explain the ethical, legal and moral complexities of present day law enforcement
- Recognize the behaviors that disqualify applicants from law enforcement careers
- Identify ethical and unethical behavior both on-duty and off-duty
- Describe the relationship between a diverse society and its police
- Explain the potential for controversy in a community when faced with suspected unethical behavior by law enforcement;
- Identify key theoretical approaches to ethical leadership as applied to law enforcement;
- Recognize the relationship between unethical behavior by law enforcement officers and the loss of community trust
- Explain the causal relationship of an act of corruption by an individual officer and the public's perception of it
- Describe the moral and legal problems hiring persons who lead a questionable moral and ethical life

V. CONTENT:

- Introduction
- Definition of Ethics
 - What are ethics?
 - Leadership standards in law enforcement
 - Are ethical standards different for police officers than for citizens?
 - Why are law enforcement ethics important for the agency, the officer and the community?
- Teaching Ethics in the Academy
 - Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
 - Professional Standards
 - Code of Conduct
 - Oath of Office
- Application of Ethics on the Job
 - The review of applicants for police positions; their demonstrated behavior compared to their real behavior
 - Enforcing laws in the community
 - Ethical behavior on patrol
 - Ethical behavior as an investigator
 - Personal behavior as it relates to an officer's position
 - The cost of unethical behavior to the individual officer
 - The cost of unethical behavior to the community
 - The difference between "Noble Cause" corruption and corruption for personal gain
 - The impact of case decisions such as Brady v. Maryland on police behavior
- Leadership in Law Enforcement
 - Definition of leadership
 - 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. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Guest Lecturers** -
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- E. Group discussions
- F. Case studies

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. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Projects
6. Group Projects
7. Class Participation
8. Class Work
9. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

1. Weekly class discussions, work, and participation
2. Periodic written assignments
3. Chapter home work assignments
4. Chapter quizzes, one midterm, and a final exam
5. End of semester evaluation of research paper or group/individual project

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Crank, John , and Michael Caldero. *Police Ethics The Corruption of the Noble Cause*. 4 ed., Routledge, 2018.
2. Albanese, Jay. *Professional Ethics in Criminal Justice: Being Ethical When No One is Looking*. 4th ed., Pearson Education, 2016.
3. Braswell, Michael , Belinda McCarthy, and Bernard McCarthy. *Justice, Crime, and Ethics*. 9 ed., Routledge, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: