

Midstate College  
411 West Northmoor Road  
Peoria, Illinois 61614  
(309) 692.4092                      800.251.4299  
Summer Term 2018

**Course Number and Name:** LSJ 385 – Professionalism & Ethics

**Credit Hours:** 4 Quarter Credit Hours

**Method of Delivery:** Flex Learning (Wednesday Night Flex)

PLEASE NOTE: The classroom (Wednesday evenings) dates/times are posted in the Flex Learning Academic Calendar located in MOODLE above our weekly outline. Please print this calendar to reference throughout the term. This course is being administered as flex learning. Flex courses are taught both on-campus and through eLearning. Flex courses offer personalized learning where students can choose each week whether they want to attend on-campus, via eLearning, or a combination of both. The schedule will state what day and time the classroom component will be, as it would be with a regular classroom course, while eLearning is available at all times. If you attend the classroom component, you are expected to be on time.

**Course Description:** This course explores professional ethics applied to the legal system. Students examine the philosophical origins of ethics and the relationship of ethics to law and the concept of justice in society. General ethical propositions are established and applied to specific issues in society to educate students about ethical decision making and to assist students in becoming personally responsible in their professional careers.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of LSJ 110 (Introduction to Social Justice) or Permission from Department Director

**Text:** Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues (Eighth Edition)  
Authors: MacKinnon, B. and Fiala, A.  
Publisher: Cengage (2015)  
(ISBN: 9781285196756)

**Other Readings:** Other readings as assigned and available on JOULE

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**Materials needed for this course:** The minimum system requirements to complete an eLearning course at Midstate College.

**Topics:** The following topics will be covered in this course:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
3. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

**Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the common ethical principles found in codes of ethics and standards of practice related to the human/social services fields and the legal system.
2. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.
3. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.
4. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.
6. Participate in personal and professional reflection in terms of self-evaluation of ethical standards, morals, values, and professional effectiveness.

**Midstate Grading Scale:**

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

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All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

**Midstate Plagiarism Policy:** Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

**Student Success:** The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

**Assessment Portfolio Reminder:** Students (depending on your program major) may be required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio. Use the "Evidence for Success" list from your program portfolio (or consult your Program Director) and instructions from the

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instructor to determine the assignment(s) that should be placed in the assessment portfolio.

**Instructor Information:**

**Instructor:** Scott Michalec, Adjunct Associate Professor, Legal Studies  
Assistant Attorney General  
Email: [smichalec@midstate.edu](mailto:smichalec@midstate.edu)

\*Office Hours (in classroom): 1 hour before class, after class as needed, and by appointment.

**Assistant Instructor:** Mark Wiltse, Legal Studies Director  
Email: [mwiltse@midstate.edu](mailto:mwiltse@midstate.edu)

Legal Studies Department  
Office: 219  
Phone: (309) 692-4092, Extension 2190  
Fax: (309) 692-3893

**Policies and Procedures:** All assignments are due by the date specified and they need to be posted in the location specified by the faculty member in this module/syllabus. Late assignments will only be accepted up to 7 days after their due dates. Assignments turned in after this 7-day period expires will receive no credit. Credit for weekly discussion questions will not be given when received late. All work must be submitted in typewritten form (assignments submitted in handwritten form will not be accepted).

**Methods of evaluating student performance:** Please see “Instructor Final Grade Determination” below for more information.

**Attendance Policy:** ON CAMPUS STUDENTS: Students attending on campus classes on Wednesday evenings will be marked present for that week.

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**ELEARNING:** A student taking this course via eLearning must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week. Each week, students may choose to participate via on campus or online (student’s choice).

**Instructor’s Grading Scale:** The following assignments and activities are outlined in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by the date identified by the instructor and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module.

Day 1	Monday
Day 2	Tuesday
Day 3	Wednesday
Day 4	Thursday
Day 5	Friday
Day 6	Saturday
Day 7	Sunday

**Instructor’s Final Grade Determination:** The first half of this term will be focused on Ethical Theories and the second half of the term will be focused on Ethical Issues and practical application. Your final grade in this course will be based on **920 points:** Students will be required to complete weekly Reflection Assignments worth 30 points each. Weekly participation on the discussion forum is required and will account for 30 points each week. Students will also be required to complete a Case Study assignment and an Ethics through Films paper. Guidelines and details for all assignments will be posted on JOULE as they become due. Grading points are as follows:

1. Reflection Assignments 360 points (30 points each x 12 weeks)
2. Case Study 100 points
3. Ethics through Films 100 points

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4. Discussion participation 360 points (30 points each week X 12 weeks)
5. TOTAL POINTS                      **920 points**

\*All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

### Course Policies and Procedures:

1. eLearning Sessions: In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see the **2018 Summer Term** dates posted in the information section of this course) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. You will be required to answer the weekly discussion question each week and respond to any comments posted by the instructor. This allows students one week to access the lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the **mandatory** discussion and summary boards. (See Participation Requirements section for further discussion forum requirements.)
2. This course is focused on a student-centered approach that emphasizes focused reading and reflection to posted assignments/discussions.
3. **Reflection Assignments:** These assignments will supplement the assigned readings and online lectures to further your understanding and application of professionalism and ethics topics. A total of twelve Reflection Assignments will be due throughout the term (**one per week**). Topics for Reflection Assignments will be posted each week as an Assignment along with a link to submit each one. Reflections are to be written in your own words, and you may offer your opinions but all Reflection Assignments **must** also contain information derived from the readings in the textbook and special assigned readings in order to receive full credit. You do not have to agree with the authors of the text or special readings, and you must use proper citation rules when directly quoting any material or incorporating other sources. Also, while this is not a composition course, I will be counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other structural writing errors. I expect **good** quality written assignments!

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4. **Case Study:** For this assignment, students will write a description in your own words about **one** scenario that is related to your area of professional interest which could present – or has already presented – an ethical challenge for you in your workplace/career/profession. You will define the conflict and present **THREE** different perspectives which can be assumed by three different professional people from the same profession about this issue and explain the reasons for each perspective. You will research information about the ethical, legal and moral implications involved with this issue by consulting professional journals, ethical codes, standards of practice, internet and/or other authoritative, evidence-based resources. Give a valid reason why professionals might assume different perspectives about the same issue. Finally, write your recommendation for resolution of this issue that reflects the application of your professional ethical standards. You are required to utilize **three** sources in addition to your textbook. APA style/formatting is required. (If you need guidance on APA style, visit The Owl at Purdue online or ask me for further recommendations...the Owl is also available on the Midstate College Library website.) I am not setting a page requirement for this assignment but ALL components of this assignment must be fully met to earn full points.
5. **Ethics through Film Assignment:** Instructions for the Ethics through Film Assignment will be posted on Joule.
6. All work must be completed by **Friday, August 10, 2018 (11:59 PM)**
7. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form will not be tolerated in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the course/program/college. **Do your own work!!** I CANNOT emphasize this enough!! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.
8. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Joule and via email.

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## **Course Outline**

This Outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses.

### **Week 1:**

1. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
2. Chapter 1. Ethics and Ethical Reasoning
3. Special Reading
4. Answer the Discussion Question
5. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the common ethical principles found in codes of ethics and standards of practice related to the human/social services fields and the legal system.
2. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.

### **Week 2:**

1. Chapter 3. Ethical Relativism.
2. Special Reading
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

1. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.



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2. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.

**Week 3:**

1. Chapter 5. Utilitarianism and John Stuart Mill
2. Special Reading
3. Documentary
4. Answer the Discussion Question
5. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
2. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.
3. Participate in personal and professional reflection in terms of self-evaluation of ethical standards, morals, values, and professional effectiveness.

**Week 4:**

1. Chapter 6. Deontological Ethics and Immanuel Kant
2. Special Reading
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 4:

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1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.

**Objectives Covered in Week 4:**

1. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.
2. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.
3. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.

**Week 5:**

1. Chapter 7. Natural Law and Human Rights
2. Special Reading
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

**Topics Covered in Week 5:**

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.

**Objectives Covered in Week 5:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the common ethical principles found in codes of ethics and standards of practice related to the human/social services fields and the legal system.
2. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.
3. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.

**Week 6:**

1. Chapter 9. Feminist Thought and the Ethics of Care
2. Special Reading

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3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
3. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 6:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.
3. Participate in personal and professional reflection in terms of self-evaluation of ethical standards, morals, values, and professional effectiveness.

**Week 7: (No On-Campus Class in Week 7...July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday)**

1. Chapter 10. Euthanasia
2. Special Reading
3. Documentary
4. Answer the Discussion Question
5. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
2. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.

**Week 8:**

1. Chapter 12. Sexual Morality
2. Special Reading
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 8:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the common ethical principles found in codes of ethics and standards of practice related to the human/social services fields and the legal system.
2. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Identify and explain basic methods for collection and utilization of community needs assessments
2. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.

**Week 9:**

1. Chapter 13. Equality and Discrimination
2. Documentary
3. **Ethics through Film Assignment due**

4. Answer the Discussion Question
5. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

1. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.
2. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.
3. Participate in personal and professional reflection in terms of self-evaluation of ethical standards, morals, values, and professional effectiveness.

**Week 10:**

1. Chapter 14. Economic Justice
2. Special Reading
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
2. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.

**Week 11:**

1. Chapter 16. Environmental Ethics
2. Documentary
3. Answer the Discussion Question
4. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.
2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
3. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of respect and ethical behavior for individuality and for people with diverse cultural backgrounds when rendering professional services.
3. Participate in personal and professional reflection in terms of self-evaluation of ethical standards, morals, values, and professional effectiveness.

**Week 12:**

1. Chapter 17, Animal Ethics
2. **Special Reading**
3. **Case Study Due (by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM)**
4. Answer the Discussion Question
5. Complete the Reflection Assignment

Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. The history and development of ethical theory and reasoning.

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2. Ethical applications and ethical decision making models as applied to general and specific social justice issues.
3. The examination and application of professional codes of ethics in various legal and human/social services situations.

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the common ethical principles found in codes of ethics and standards of practice related to the human/social services fields and the legal system.
2. Understand and articulate the difference between law and ethics.
3. Differentiate between aspirational ethics, mandatory ethics, principle ethics, and virtue ethics.
4. Evaluate and understand the impact of personal ethical styles in personal and professional settings.
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