

# Criminal Justice Ethics, PHIL330.001, Spring, 2008

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**REVISED:** Next Tuesday, April 22 will be our First Midterm Exam, worth 15% of your grade for the class. The exam will involve writing careful, thoughtful, and precise short essay answers of at least 8-10 sentences each to questions that pertain to our readings and class discussion. On Tuesday's exam, you will see six questions made up out of a selection from the twelve topics listed below. You'll answer **five** of the six questions on the exam.

Each answer should provide a *carefully written, detailed, and precise* explanation or discussion of what it is directly asking about, usually how a concept is defined or understood, or how something is argued or discussed in one of our texts. Each question will also ask for *some thoughtful illustration, response, or critical reaction*, or to make *some connections* between ideas presented in the class. Please let me know if you have any questions. I will be glad to discuss things with you during my normal office hours, and also by appointment at other times if necessary. Anything we have not discussed in class by the end of this week will not be on this exam.

All of these topics relate to class discussions and / or material in our readings. Please focus on *those* sources, as you study for the exam. Trawling the web and outside research is likely to lead to confusion, as the issues are complex and involve matters that are controversial and which can be approached from many different standpoints. In any case, a useful exam should indicate how well you are following the material presented in the course, and to gauge how well it is working.

1. Philosophy, its main aims, methods, and branches, and the basic definition of ethics we discussed
2. The main meanings of "crime" and "justice" we discussed related to the subject matter of the class
3. The main problem Gordon Marino sees with what he calls "the ethics industry" and his alternative to it
4. The ideas of moral self-deception in the article by Marino and cognitive dissonance
5. The Problem of Application, what it basically is, and what it tells us about ethics
6. John Ladd's four main problems with professional codes of ethics
7. Ladd's primary and secondary objectives for a code of professional ethics
8. Ladd's three mischievous side-effects that result from having codes of professional ethics
9. John Kleinig's idea of the purposes served by police ethics codes
10. Kleinig's idea of the problems related to police ethics codes
11. Jeff Reiman's characterization of what criminal justice ethics does and his arguments for why it's necessary
12. Reiman's conceptions of moral justification and relativism