

Syllabus for HLS-3900

ETHICAL MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC SAFETY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general examination of the role of public safety leaders, including those in homeland security and emergency management, in shaping standards of ethical conduct at the individual, group, and organizational levels. Students will gain an understanding of the ethical challenges faced by public safety professionals in balancing core values, responsibilities, and compliance with the policies and regulations relevant to the institution they serve. This course also includes scenarios and simulations with reflective questions to help students think critically and constructively about real-life issues in public safety.

COURSE TOPICS

- Ethical principles, values, and leadership
- Dimensions of organizational ethics
- Implication of ethics on the compliance context
- Methods for analyzing and solving ethical issues

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- CO 1** Use the basic principles of ethics for public safety.
- CO 2** Apply ethics to leadership approaches and practices.
- CO 3** Connect the building blocks that form an ethical organization's culture.
- CO 4** Associate ethical challenges with their position on a given ethical situation.
- CO 5** Integrate ethical considerations into compliance activities.
- CO 6** Promote ethical behaviors within an organization.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook

- Dutelle, A. W., & Taylor, R. S. (2018). *Ethics for the public service professional* (2nd ed.). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.
ISBN-13: 978-1138035041

Additional Learning Resources

- Students will find links within modules to additional learning resources.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Ethical Management in Public Safety is a three-credit online course consisting of **seven** modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: Ethical Values and Principles**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2
- **Module 2: Becoming an Ethical Leader in Public Safety**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4
- **Module 3: Assembling Ethical Dimensions**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 3, CO 4
- **Module 4: Ethical Challenges**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2
- **Module 5: Ethical Decision Making: Schemas**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4
- **Module 6: Ethical Compliance**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 7: Promoting Ethical Behaviors and Preventing Wrongdoing**

Course objectives covered in this module: CO 1, CO 2, CO 5, CO 6

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums, complete written assignments, and complete a final project. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to complete **five** discussion forums. The discussion forums are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



Written Assignments

You are required to complete **two** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



Memo Assignment

You are required to complete **one** memo assignment.



Presentation Assignment

You are required to complete **one** presentation assignment. The presentation assignment is on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



Journal Assignments

You are required to complete **four** journal assignments. The journal assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



Final Project

The primary purpose of the final project is for you to imagine yourself facing an ethical dilemma and for you to determine a potential course of action.

Note the following:

- This is a group project; you will work as a member of a cooperative group to complete it. Your mentor will set up the groups before the class begins.
- The project is divided into four steps (milestones), which will be submitted progressively throughout the course. This will enable you to analyze ethical concepts as you move forward in the course and will ensure quality final submissions. **The first milestone, selection of the dilemma your group will consider and identification of your organization, is due at the end of Week 1.**
- Your group should work cooperatively to complete all milestones, but one group member will be designated to submit each milestone.

See the Final Project of the course site for detailed information about the final project.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (5)**—25%
- **Written assignments (2)**—10%
- **Memo assignment (1)**—5%
- **Presentation assignment (1)**—10%
- **Journal assignments (4)**—20%
- **Final project**—30%
 - **Milestone 1** (5%)
 - **Milestone 2** (5%)
 - **Milestone 3** (5%)
 - **Milestone 4** (15%)

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	C+	= 78–79
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–77
B+	= 88–89	C–	= 70–72
B	= 83–87	D	= 60–69
B–	= 80–82	F	= Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process--not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) webpage and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)
- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)

- [Academic code of conduct](#)