

The Broken Gavel™ Study Guide for Criminal Justice Majors

Course Syllabus – Designed for university-level Criminal Justice programs. This syllabus accompanies The Broken Gavel™ Study Guide and is intended for faculty use, providing a complete week-by-week roadmap with activities, resources, and assessments.

Course Description

This course uses The Broken Gavel™: A Sneak Peek as the foundation for an in-depth exploration of legal ethics, client rights, and attorney accountability, grounded in the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. Through case studies, interactive activities, and reflective practice, students develop critical skills for ethical decision-making in the criminal justice field.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Interpret and apply the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct to real-world scenarios.
2. Identify ethical violations in attorney-client relationships.
3. Analyze legal misconduct cases from legal, emotional, and systemic perspectives.
4. Communicate ethical principles effectively in oral, written, and visual formats.
5. Develop practical solutions to improve client protections and legal accountability.

Required Materials

- The Broken Gavel™: A Sneak Peek
- The Broken Gavel™ Study Guide for Criminal Justice Majors – Class 009
- Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct (latest edition)



- Access to case law databases or public disciplinary decisions
- Supplemental multimedia case materials provided by instructor

Weekly Course Outline

Week 1 – Introduction & Case Context

Topics:

- Overview of The Broken Gavel™ and its relevance to criminal justice ethics
- Key Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct: Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 8.4
- Case Study: 'How Did I Get Here?'

Activities:

- Guided reading discussion
- Knowledge check on rule comprehension
- Begin case analysis for Melnick disciplinary decision

Assessment:

- Short response on early red flags in attorney-client relationships

Week 2 – Legal Terms Decoded & Rule Application

Topics:

- Understanding legal vocabulary and client rights
- Detailed review of selected Legal Terms Decoded entries

Activities:

- Group exercise: Define and apply legal terms to hypothetical cases
- Real-Time Rulebook Challenge activity

Assessment:

- Group submission of applied legal term scenarios with rule citations

Week 3 – Ethics of Storytelling & Confidentiality

Topics:

- The Confidante Clause analysis
- Consent, boundaries, and professional confidentiality

Activities:

- Psychological Forensics of Betrayal activity with expert input
- Class discussion on public vs. private narratives in legal practice

Assessment:

- Reflective journal entry on personal boundaries and ethics

Week 4 – Applied Scenario: 'If This Were Your Case...'

Topics:

- Structuring legal arguments for ethical hearings
- Role differentiation in legal proceedings

Activities:

- Immersive Role-Play Tribunal activity
- Ethics Decision Lab branching scenario exercise

Assessment:

- Role-specific performance evaluation and debrief reflection

Week 5 – Evidence & Investigation

Topics:

- Using multimedia evidence in misconduct investigations
- Linking exhibits to rule violations

Activities:

- Multi-Media Evidence Experience activity
- Group analysis of compiled case packets



Assessment:

- Investigator summary report citing exhibits and rules violated

Week 6 – Capstone & Professional Commitment

Topics:

- Policy advocacy for client protection
- Long-term professional ethics planning

Activities:

- Client Bill of Rights Showcase with invited legal professionals
- Ethics Legacy Letter writing and sealing for future delivery

Assessment:

- Final Client Bill of Rights policy guide
- Ethics Legacy Letter submission

Assessment & Grading

Participation – 20%

Knowledge Checks & Short Responses – 15%

Group Projects – 25%

Reflective Journals – 15%

Capstone Project (Client Bill of Rights) – 25%

Instructor Notes

- Provide all multimedia and role-play materials in advance.
- Maintain a respectful, professional environment during sensitive case discussions.
- Encourage students to connect ethical concepts to their intended career paths.