

Syllabus

Business/Philosophy/Administration of Justice 186: Business and Professional Ethics

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Office: MH 528

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Description & Objectives

This course provides insights in to both the causes of unethical behavior in business and the professions and into decision-making processes that are a vital part of professional life. Students will learn:

- *Current philosophical conceptions and definitions of ethics
- *A sociological paradigm for the analysis of unethical behavior
- *The nature and scope of unethical behavior in business, political life, and in the criminal justice system
- *Apply the concepts learned in business and professional contexts
- *Appreciate the cultural diversity in global business, government, and criminal justice
- *To critically examine their own ethical and ideological systems of thought

Prerequisites

This is a general education course open only to upper-division students. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) and completion of the Core GE courses are also required.

Texts

Joel Henderson & David R. Simon, Crimes of the Criminal Justice System (Anderson, 1994), hereafter CCJS

Michael Brasswell et al (Eds.) Crime, Justice, & Ethics 3rd Ed (Anderson, 1999), hereafter CJE

David R. Simon & Frank Hagan, White-Collar Deviance (Allyn & Bacon, 1999), hereafter WCD

David R. Simon, Social Problems & The Sociological Imagination (McGraw-Hill, 1995), hereafter SPSI

Suggested Readings

John Richardson, Ed, Annual Editions Business Ethics

David R. Simon, Elite Deviance 6th Ed (Allyn & Bacon, 1999)

Grading Criteria:

Research Project 25%

Students will complete a research project in ideological content analysis related to course areas. Directions are attached.

Midterm & Final Examinations 25% each

These will be based on textual readings and class meetings. Tests will be short answer and essay in nature.

Written Ethics Exercises 25%

These are a series of four written homework assignments designed to examine and resolve ethical problems in specific situations.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for exams and papers is as follows:

96-100: A+

93-95: A

90-92: A-

86-89: B+

83-85: B

80-82: B-

75-79: C+

65-74: C

60-65: C-

56-59: D+
53-55: D
50-52:D-
Below 50: F

Tentative Course Outline

Week # Topic Assignments

Part I: The Study of Ethics

Week 1 Introduction to Ethics CJE, Ch. 1; SPSI, Ch. 1

Week 2 Consequentialist, Deontological, &
Humanist Ethics CJE, Chs. 2 & 3

Week 3 An Ethical Paradigm CCJS, Chs. 1& 2
SPSI, Ch. 4

Week 4 Causes of Unethical Behavior WCD, Ch. 1&2

Part II: Unethical Dimensions in Business & The Professions

Week 5 Corporate Deviance SPSI, Chs. 2 & 3

Week 6 Occupational & Professional Deviance WCD, Ch. 4 & 5

Week 7 Organized White-Collar Deviance WCD, Ch. 6; CCJS, Ch. 4

Part III: Unethical Dimensions of Political Governmental Behavior

Week 8 Modern Scandal CJE, Ch. 7; SPSI, Ch. 4

Week 9 Police Deviance CJE, Chs. 4 & 6

Week 10 Ethics & The Courts CJE, Chs. 9 & 12

Week 11 Ethical Issues in Corrections CJE, Chs. 14 & 15;
CCJS, Ch. 3

Week 12 Ethical Issues in Policy CJE, CJE, Ch. 19 & 21; SPSI, CH. 6

Week 13 Ethical Issues In Research SPSI, Ch. 5; CJE, Chs. 17 & 18

Week 14 Dealing With Ethical Crises CJE, Ch. 21; SPSI, Ch. 6; WCD, Chs. 7

Week 15 Ethics in the 21st Century CJE, Ch. 22; WCD, Ch. 8; CCJS, Ch. 7

Week 16 Final Examination