Syllabus

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

Dr. David R. Simon  
Office: MH 528  
Hours: M: 4:15-5:30; W: 4:15-6  E-drdr@pacbell.net  
Office Ph. 408-924-1337

Description & Objectives

This course provides insights into 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 openly 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


Suggested Readings

John Richardson, Ed, Annual Editions Business Ethics

David R. Simon, Elite Deviance 7th Ed (Allyn & Bacon, 2001)
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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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
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Ethics &amp; The Courts</th>
<th>CJE, Chs. 9 &amp; 12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Corrections</td>
<td>CJE, Chs. 14 &amp; 15; CCJS, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Policy</td>
<td>CJE, CJE, Ch. 19 &amp; 21; SPSI, CH. 6</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in Research</td>
<td>SPSI, Ch. 5; CJE, Chs. 17 &amp; 18</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Dealing With Ethical Crises</td>
<td>CJE, Ch. 21; SPSI, Ch. 6; WCD, Chs. 7</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Ethics in the 21st Century</td>
<td>CJE, Ch. 22; WCD, Ch. 8; CCJS, Ch. 7</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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