

San Jose State University

College of Arts & Humanities

Philosophy Department

Professional & Business Ethics

Philosophy 186:84; 27670/Business3:186:84; 29177

ONLINE: Spring 2018

Instructor:	Janet Giddings, M.A. Philosophy; M.A. Theology
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays by email before 6 p.m.
Class Days/Time:	Weekly Online
Classroom:	Canvas
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area S: "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S." "Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V with courses from departments other than the major department. Completion of, or co-registration in, a 100W course is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students."

Communication with Instructor and Essentials

You must follow due dates. You will have reminders through the Canvas system.

Course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, quizzes, videos, etc. found on the course **Canvas** site. All communication will occur through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking messages from the professor. All required assignments are in Canvas and you must follow the directives.

Course Description

This course involves an interdisciplinary study of ethical and moral issues that arise within the contexts and as a result of business and the professions. It involves a study of major ethical theories, critique of economic justice, and decision-making techniques. Our primary focus is on issues of justice and equality in the US facilitated by case studies and group discussion.

Student Learning Objectives (SLO's)

Bus/Phil 186 meets SJSU Studies Area S, "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S." The course objectives for Area S courses will be pursued throughout the course.

Student Learning Objectives

A. Course Goals (GE)

Students will study the interrelationship of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, equality, and structured inequality in the U.S., its institutions, and its cultures.

2. Student Learning

After successfully completing the course, students shall be able to:

1. Describe how identities (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality;
2. Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;
3. Describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age).; and
4. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to recognize, analyze, and articulate solutions to ethical issues that arise in business.

Specifically, you will be able to:

- Comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for action.

- Identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.
- Demonstrate familiarity with various ethical issues that arise in business, such as insider trading, misuse of corporate resources, conflicts of interest, and sexual and racial harassment.
- Distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
- Know how well managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

Course Content Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Students will also learn and develop,

5. an awareness that the moral dimensions of life does not vanish but rather expands in the context of business,
6. an understanding of basic moral concepts as tools for assessing the moral realities of business and professional life,
7. the ability to participate constructively in collective discussion and decision making about the moral dimension of business and professional life.

Textbook

Shaw, William, and Vincent Barry. *Moral Issues in Business*. 13th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

Note: you will need this book and this edition for the course. The text is available in the Spartan Bookstore. You can also buy or rent @ CengageBrain.com.

Other Readings

There may be topical issues in the news and you may be asked to read something posted on my website. Stay informed.

Online Class Protocol

The best way to achieve the optimum grade is to view all video lectures and participate in discussions. Philosophical discussion includes argumentation, which means logical reasoning of justifications for your position on a topic. This requires practice and group work. Argumentation does not mean hateful language or anger toward other students or the professor. Courtesy will be shown to the professor and fellow students in all communications.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at: http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is

available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy: 100 points possible

University Policy F-69-24

Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student.

Grading: 100 points possible

28: Discussions: All discussions must be directly related to the assignment. (SLO 1,3,4)

45: Quizzes (9): *1st quiz Chapters 1,2,3,4; All multiple choice and True/False. This test covers: Morality; Normative theories of ethics; Justice; Economic distribution; the Nature of Capitalism. (SLO 1,2,3,4,6). Subsequent (8) quizzes are for each chapter; 1 per chapter and some may be essay questions.*

10: Paper: *Research/Argument paper: Six pages of writing with 1-2 pages of Works Cited/Works Consulted list. Three **scholarly** (peer-reviewed) journal articles required as a minimum. The quality of your research will be evaluated as well as the content and final draft of the paper. See what is an "A" paper, below. Upload to Canvas (SLO 1-7)*

12: *Case Arguments: You will write and upload 4 case arguments (all SLO's)*

5: Final: *You must post an essay on what are your 3 most important take-aways from the course. With complete explanation, detailing why and reflecting on the value of the work. (possible all SLO's)*

- Late papers are NOT accepted in this course unless you have a documented medical emergency.
- No make-up tests unless documented medical or documented work emergency
- All work must be the work of the student enrolled in the course but you may work with others in the course on quizzes. This collaboration can be fun and help you learn in a different way. However, please do not allow someone to 'cheat' and use your answers on quizzes or any course assignments. This is unethical.
- All papers will follow MLA or APA formatting; **no cover sheet.**

“A” paper guidelines:

An “A” paper is excellent. An “A” paper is focused with an explicit thesis statement (or position if an argumentative paper). It exhibits a clear, effective and organized line of thought as well as a thorough understanding of the material. It has no English usage problems, no problems with format, anticipates possible objections to its point of view (or directly considers an opposing view if an argument), supports the thesis (or position) with research and/or premises, and frequently provides pertinent citations to make its case. All borrowed ideas or words are cited whether using a direct quote or not. The writer’s “voice” is firm, confident, and clear. The paper assignment meets the directive completely.

SJSU Administration states this requirement:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:

Accessible Education Center

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their requirements. Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date. This is the student’s responsibility.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. Professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges staff the Center. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Grading Scale: 100 points possible

96-100 = A	80-84 = B	65-69 = C	51-54 = D
90-95 = A-	75-79 = B-	60-64 = C-	50 and below = Fail
85-89 = B+	70-74 = C+	55-59 = D+	

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

If you think this course is too much of a challenge at this time it is your responsibility to drop the course in the required/appropriate schedule. See drop dates.

Having stated all the rules and regulations of this contract, I hope you will learn and enjoy our work. I am dedicated to teaching and working with students in a friendly online environment. This course offers exciting ideas and challenges us to think about our own moral standards and the standards of others.

“Ask the Prof” discussion section in Canvas:

There is a discussion format set up for you to post any questions you may have for me. Do not email me separately unless you have a personal question. By posting questions in the discussion forum, other students will benefit.

Schedule: all work is placed in Modules for each week

August 24th: Introductory Module and materials. You are required to read the “Overview of the Course” in this first module; and view all materials posted. Download the argument formula.

Week 1: The Nature of Morality

Week 2: Normative Theories of Ethics

Week 3: Justice and Economic Distribution

Week 4: Review and Quiz: Chapters 1,2,3

Week 5: The Nature of Capitalism

Week 6: Corporations

Week 7: Consumers

Week 8: Case Arguments

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: Environment

Week 11: Cases and Research paper due

Week 12: Workplace (1)

Week 13: Workplace (2)

Week 14: Moral Choices Facing Employees

Week 15: Job Discrimination

Week 16: Last Case and Discussion

FINAL: Opens May 11; closes May 17 @ 7:30 p.m. (Administration has the Final scheduled for 5/17 @ 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) However, Prof Giddings is opening the Final early and closing it on the final due date. That means, you have plenty of choices as to when to complete the Final. Please remember that once you begin the Final, you must stay with it until completion. You cannot start then pause.