

San José State University

College of Humanities & the Arts/Philosophy Department

BUS3/PHIL 186 Professional & Business Ethics, Sections 1, 2, & 4, Spring, 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Lisa Bernasconi

Office Location: Faculty Office Building – FO206

Email: lisa.bernasconi@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:30am to 11:30am

Class Days/Time/Location:

- Section 1: MW 7:30am to 8:45am, DMH149B
- Section 2: MW 9:00am to 10:15am, DMH149B
- Section 4: MW 12:00pm to 1:15pm, MQH324

Prerequisites: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

SJSU Studies Category: Area S: Self, Society & Equality in the U.S.

Course Format

In person – lecture required

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at www.mrsbernasconi.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu>. Make sure that your email address is up to date with MySJSU. This is the only email I will use to communicate with you.

Course Description

Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the contexts of business occupations and professions. Major ethical theories, critique of economic and criminal justice. Focus is on issues of justice and equality in the U.S. Case studies.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

GELO 1: Students will be able to 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.

Course will include discussion of the expectations of workers vs. the reality of civil liberties in the workplace.

GELO 2: Students will be able to describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.

Course will include discussion of the civil rights movement and the problems of working women before, during and after World War II

GELO 3: Students will be able to 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).

Course will include discussion of the labor movement in the U.S., as well as discussion of the concepts of protected classes under the law, affirmative action, and comparable worth

GELO 4: Students will be able to recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

Course will include discussion of cooperation of Pilipino-American and Mexican-American labor leaders in the struggle for farm worker rights.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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:

CLO 1. comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for action.

CLO 2. identify the major stakeholders of business and how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.

CLO 3. 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.

CLO 4. distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.

CLO 5. know how well-managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

Textbook (optional)

William H. Shaw & Vincent Barry, Moral Issues in Business, any of the last 4 editions

Course Requirements and Assignments

- 4 objective exams – 15% each – 60% total
- 1 critical response paper – 10%
- 1 group project – 15 %
- 1 community service project – 5%
- 1 final exam: interview/analysis assignment. See below. – 10%

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 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.”

Final Evaluation

At the day and time of the final evaluation for your section, you will submit an interview/analysis assignment.

You will interview a working person about

- the ethical issues that person faces at work or sees others face
- how those issues are resolved
- whether your subject believes the issue was handled fairly for all concerned
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The interview description should be about one to two pages. Include an additional page showing how this issue relates to one of the lectures from this semester.

Grading Information

The 4 objective exams will be graded on a scale of 0 to 100. The critical response paper will be graded from F to A (F=0, D=70, C=80, B=90, A=100). The group project will be graded on the same F to A scale. The community service will be graded pass/fail. The interview/final evaluation paper will be graded pass/fail.

Your grade for the critical response paper will be determined by your demonstrated understanding of the concepts involved, the clarity of your arguments, and your attention to details of grammar and spelling.

For the group project, the entire group will receive the same grade, so everyone is responsible for every page of the completed project.

Determination of Grades

A 95 to 100; A- 90 to 94; B+ 87 to 89; B 84 to 86; B- 80 to 83; C+ 77 to 79; C 74 to 76; C- 70 to 73; D 60 to 69; F 0 to 59

- There will be no extra credit assigned
- Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and may be subject to penalty.

Classroom Protocol

Silence cell phones. Use laptops and other devices only for note taking. Arrive on time. Be courteous to your fellow students. Let me know promptly if you have any concerns about the class. During films and group discussions, close your laptop, put down your phone, and be attentive. If you plan to be absent on an exam day, please let me know in advance by email.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by email and/or in class announcement.

W Jan 24	First Day – Introduction
M Jan 29	Plan for Group Projects
W Jan 31	Chapter 1 – The Nature of Morality
M Feb 5	Chapter 2 – Normative Moral Theories
W Feb 7	Chapter 2 continued
M Feb 12	Chapter 2 continued
W Feb 14	Film: <i>A Place at the Table</i>
M Feb 19	Chapter 3 – The Nature of Justice
W Feb 21	Chapter 3 continued; Review for Exam 1
M Feb 26	Exam 1
W Feb 28	Return Exams, Chapter 5 - Corporations
M Mar 5	Update on Group Projects
W Mar 7	Chapter 6 – Consumers
M Mar 12	Compliance; Review for Exam 2
W Mar 14	Exam 2
M Mar 19	Return Exams; Group Presentations 1 and 2
W Mar 21	Group Presentations 3 and 4
M Mar 26	Spring Break – no class
W Mar 28	Spring Break – no class
M Apr 2	Chapter 8 – World of Work 1
W Apr 4	Group Presentations 5 and 6 and 7
M Apr 9	Chapter 9 – World of Work 2
W Apr 11	Group Presentations 8 and 9 and 10
M Apr 16	Exam 3
W Apr 18	Group Presentations 11 and 12
M Apr 23	Film: <i>The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter</i>
W Apr 25	Chapter 10 – Moral Issues facing Employees
M Apr 30	Group Presentations 13 and 14 (section 4 only)
W May 2	Film: <i>The Fight in the Fields</i>
M May 7	Film: <i>The Fight in the Fields</i> - continued
W May 9	Chapter 11 – Discrimination and Review for Last Exam
M May 14	Exam 4
W May 16	Final Interview due in my email by 9:45am for section 4 (MW 12:00 class)
F May 18	Final Interview due in my email by 7:15am for section 1 (MW 7:30 class)
T May 22	Final Interview due in my email by 7:15am for section 2 (MW 9:00 class)