

**San Jose State University  
College of Humanities and the Arts**

**Philosophy Department  
Professional & Business Ethics**

**FALL 2015**

Philosophy/Business 186:05; 47041 9-10:15 a.m. DMH 357  
Philosophy/Business 186:09; 47045 10:30-11:45 a.m. DMH 357

**Instructor:** Janet Giddings, M.A. Philosophy; M.A. Theology

**Office Location:** FOB 209

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, Noon to 1:00 p.m. and, by appointment

**Class Days/Time:** 05: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00-10:15 a.m.  
09: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30-11:45 a.m.

**Classroom:** DMH 357

**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."

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on the course **Canvas** site. Most communication will occur through Canvas however; you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU as well.

## Course Description

This course involves an interdisciplinary study of ethical and moral issues which 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.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

Shaw, William, and Vincent Barry. *Moral Issues in Business*. 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Classroom Protocol

The best way to achieve the optimum grade is to come to class for lecture and discussion. Philosophical discussion includes argumentation, which means logical reasoning of justifications for your position on a topic. It does not mean hateful language or anger toward other students or the professor. Courtesy will be shown to the professor both in class and out of class, either in meetings or on campus in general.

Tardiness is disruptive. You will lose “Participation Points” for consistent tardiness (3 = consistent; If you are late every class you forfeit ALL participation points = 20). If you arrive to class late, please shut the door quietly and sit in the closest seat. **Do not walk in front of the professor** when she is lecturing; please walk behind if you can. If your late arrival does interrupt the class, please be polite and say, “excuse me.” This is common courtesy (or should be).

## 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/](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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## Assignments and Grading Policy: 100 points possible

20: Informed participation: means you have read the assignments prior to class and while in class you demonstrate that. When the professor asks questions on the reading your answer shows you are informed by what you have read. When discussing cases you also show you read the case prior to class and you demonstrate respect for, and critical assessment of the case. In-class group work and homework will also count for some of the 20 points of participation, as well as active listening and thinking. No credit is given for superfluous comments. Disruptive comments or comments off topic will not be tolerated. If a student talks off topic and/or unrelated to the reading or discussion rubric, the professor will interrupt the student to bring the discussion back on track.

Participation may include: in-class writing; group work at the board or seated; attentive listening; attentive to any films shown; argumentation either individual or group; presentation of readings by groups, and homework assignments.

If you are not in class you lose participation points.

20: Test 1: Chapters 1,2,3,4. Test is 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)

20: Test 2: Chapters 5,6,7,8. Test is short answer, short essay, and longer essay. This test covers: Corporations; Consumers; Environment; and Workplace 1. (SLO 6 & 7). Test booklet (blue book/green/yellow) required.

20: Paper: Research/Argument paper: Six pages of writing with 1-2 pages of Works Cited/Works Consulted list. Three scholarly (peer-reviewed) 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 (SLO 1-7)

20: Final: will cover Chapters 9,10,11. Multiple choice and/or True/False. This test covers: Workplace 2; Moral Choices facing employees; and Job Discrimination. (SLO 1-5) This test is in Canvas

- Late papers are NOT accepted in this course unless you have a documented medical emergency.
- No make-up tests unless documented medical emergency
- All work must be the work of the student enrolled in the course.
- All papers will follow MLA or APA formatting; **no cover sheet**.
- Unstapled papers will NOT be accepted.
- Extra credit may be offered in this course but not absolutely. Any extra credit that may be offered will not make up for incomplete or assignments not turned in. Extra credit points are used the same way to all students.
- Emailed papers will not be accepted. Hard copy at class time/due date only.
- Failure to complete homework assignments will result in reduced participation grade.

“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.”

## **University Policies**

### **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](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. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. 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/>.

### **Important student conduct**

**Tardiness:** 1 or 2 times late to class is understandable; more than that is not. Your final grade will be dropped ½ grade (A to A-) for 3 tardy's and for each tardy after that it will be reduced the same. If you are tardy every class you lose participation points. If you arrive to class late please do not allow the door to slam and find a seat quietly. Do NOT walk in front of the professor! Instead, with respect, walk behind and find a seat.

NO visual or auditory taping in class unless you have explicit written permission from the Disability Resource Center or the professor. **Use of laptops, phones or other devices is not allowed in class.** Write your notes and transfer to your laptop after class. You will be required to use technology outside of class; in class we will use human-to-human processes.

Cell phones OFF; No phone texting; no reading texts on your phone while in class. If you use any technology you may be asked to leave the room.

Any alteration of the schedule will be announced in class. An email may also be sent but not absolutely. It is the student responsibility to stay informed by coming to class and/or checking the Canvas site for this class. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus or course schedule; topical issues may arise that enhance or add to the course-learning dynamic and require change in the schedule.

You may not tape (audio or visual) anyone in the classroom including the instructor.

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.

Schedule of Assignments: What is listed for the day is due on that day

Note: This schedule could change. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and current on the schedule.

Week One

Thursday August 20	Introduction; syllabus discussion; practice case
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Week Two

Tuesday August 25	In-class Case reading and discussion
Thursday August 27	In-class Case reading and discussion

Week Three: Chapter 1: The Nature of Morality

Tuesday September 1	Read the whole chapter (not cases)
Thursday September 3	Case 1.1

Week Four: Chapter 2: Normative Theories of Ethics

Tuesday September 8	Read pages 56-65
Thursday September 10	Pages 66-82 and Case 2.3

Week Five: Chapter 3 Justice and Economic Distribution

Tuesday September 15	Read the whole chapter
Thursday September 17	Readings: D.W. Haslett pg. 143

Week Six: Chapter 4: The Nature of Capitalism

Tuesday September 22	Read the whole chapter
Thursday September 24	Cases 4.1 and 4.6 <b>Test 1</b> : due on Canvas by 5:00 p.m.

Week Seven: Chapter 5: Corporations

Tuesday September 29	Read the whole chapter
Thursday October 1	Case 5.4 and Case 5.6

Week Eight: Chapter 6: Consumers

Tuesday October 6	Read the whole chapter
Thursday October 8	Cases: 6.1 and 6.3

Week Nine: Chapter 7: The Environment

Tuesday October 13	Read the whole chapter
Thursday October 15	Cases 7.2 and 7.5

Week Ten: Chapter 8: The Workplace (1)

Tuesday October 20	Read the whole chapter
Thursday October 22	Cases 8.1 and 8.2

Week Eleven: Test 2 and Chapter 9: Workplace (2)

Tuesday October 27	Test 2: Chapters 5,6,7,8, bring test booklet
Thursday October 29	Read the whole chapter and Case 9.4

Week Twelve: Chapter 10: Moral Choices Facing Employees

Tuesday November 3	Read the whole chapter
Thursday November 5	Cases 10.1 and 10.4

Week Thirteen: Chapter 11: Job Discrimination and human trafficking

Tuesday November 10	Read the whole chapter
Thursday November 12	In-class short film and discussion of labor trafficking

Week Fourteen: Group Case practice

Tuesday November 17	Homework: Labor trafficking Cases by group
Thursday November 19	Homework: Labor trafficking Cases by group

Week Fifteen

Tuesday November 24	In-class writing
Thursday November 26	NO CLASS: HOLIDAY

Week Sixteen

Tuesday December 1	Cases argued: Groups 1 & 2; Groups 3 & 4; Groups 5 & 6
Thursday December 3	Cases argued: Groups 7 & 8; Groups 9 & 10

Week Seventeen

Tuesday December 8	Review for Final
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The FINAL: is due online/Canvas:

9:00 a.m. class = Thursday, 12/10, 7:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. class = Wednesday, 12/11, 9:45 a.m. to 12 noon