

San Jose State University
BUS 186 "Professional and Business Ethics"
Section 06
Fall 2015
Fridays 9:30AM-12:15PM in BBC 203
Professor John C. Wilhelmsson
Office: FOB 234
Email: z3prof@yahoo.com
Phone: (408) 977-0144
Office Hours: F 8:45-9:15AM

Introduction:

Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the context 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 cases. The first systematic investigation of ethics was done by the philosopher Aristotle in ancient Greece. He identified the purpose, or end, of ethics as being happiness. Only later did most theorist come to see the study of ethics as being a study of certain actions being morally right or wrong. Discussions about many current ethical issues tend to become divisive. There are many reasons for this not the least of which is that we tend to think of ethics in terms of what is right and wrong and not in terms of whether engaging, or not engaging, in a particular act will bring happiness. This course will conduct a study of ethical theory and contemporary issues in business in light of the original purpose of ethics—personal happiness. Each Friday we will have two class sessions. The first session will generally consist of a reading quiz on the assigned selection in "Readings In Classical Ethics" followed by a lecture and discussion on same. The second session will generally consist of a review of the assigned chapter in the "An Introduction to Business Ethics" text.

Required Texts:

The required course texts will be "An Introduction to Business Ethics" 4th by Joseph DesJardins, and "Readings In Classical Ethics" edited by John C. Wilhelmsson. Both are available in the Spartan Bookstore. Some basic student supplies you will need are 8 1/2 X 11" paper for the weekly reading quiz and a pen or a pencil. I would also suggest, if you do not already have one, an academic planner so you can manage your time well.

Course Requirements:

The course evaluations will consist of reading quizzes and classroom participation, a mid-term test on chapters 1-7 of the "An Introduction to Business Ethics" textbook, a paper on the philosophy of happiness, and a final exam project in which you will use the skills you have developed during the semester in order to evaluate a contemporary issue in business ethics. Each area of evaluation will be worth 25% of your semester grade. More information on the assignments will be given at the appropriate time. Grading for this class will be done on a straight point system. 100=A+, 99-90%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60%=D, below 60%=F. Any score at the high end of a grade range will receive a +. Any score at the low end of a grade range will receive a -.

Student Learning Objectives:

- * To develop a basic understanding of ethical theories.
- * To develop an understanding of philosophical terminology.
- * To develop the ability to comprehend classic philosophical works.
- * To develop the skills of critical analysis and argumentation.
- * To develop paper writing skills and good form and citation style.
- * To develop the ability to engage in philosophical discussions.
- * To be prepared to engage in a further study of philosophy.

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. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. 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 serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

"Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."

In this course in order to preserve academic freedom there shall be no recording of any type whatsoever during session.

"Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

University Academic Integrity Statement:

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy, 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." 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'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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, note that SJSU's Academic Policy FO6-1 requires approval of instructors."

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please talk to me as soon as possible, or see me during my office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center in order to establish a record of their disability. Special accommodations for exams require notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

Adding and Dropping:

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about adds/drops, academic renewal and other related issues. You should be aware of the new deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. Adds are done entirely at the discretion of the instructor. You have no right to be added to a given course and it is always best to approach an instructor about adding with this in mind. In contrast, drops are entirely the responsibility of the student. If you stop attending a course without dropping you may receive an "F." So be sure to drop any courses you decide not to attend.

Guidelines for Classroom Participation:

The first step toward a good classroom participation evaluation is preparedness. In the first sense this means coming to class having taken care of, or at least put aside for the moment, any personal issues or business. Practically speaking this involves getting to class on time, dealing with any problems of logistics (i.e. parking or transportation) well, and either not bringing at all or putting in the silent mode any mobile communication devices which might cause a disturbance (This means "NO PHONE ZOMBIES"). This of course also involves having completed the assigned reading for the particular class session and having the course reader, a pen or pencil and a notebook on hand. There will be many opportunities for classroom participation in this course. When wishing to participate in a discussion a student should raise their hand and wait for my cue before beginning to speak. Questions having to do with the topic at hand are welcome. At all times, and particularly during classroom discussions, students will show a high level of respect and courtesy toward one another and the instructor. This means that when one does not have the floor to speak one should be either listening or taking notes (or both). Keep in mind at all times that in a philosophical discussion persons are not being criticized but rather only thoughts and ideas. Therefore, in a philosophical discussion a person must learn to separate their personal ego from their thoughts and ideas. It is only in this way that a student may embark upon the journey of thoughts, ideas, and meanings that are Philosophy.

Final Thoughts:

I look upon each class that I teach as an organic learning community in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Therefore, if anything is getting in the way of your feeling that you are a part of this community please bring it to my attention.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 08/21/15: What Is Philosophy? / Review Syllabus
- 08/28/15: What Are Ethics? / The Meaning of "Professional"
- 09/04/15: * Edith Stein / Chapters 1 & 2
- 09/11/15: * Plato / Chapter 3
- 09/18/15: * Aristotle / Chapter 4
- 09/25/15: * Epicurus / Chapter 5
- 10/02/15: * Seneca / Chapter 6
- 10/09/15: * Augustine / Chapter 7
- 10/16/15: Writing Workshop & Assign Happiness Paper / Midterm on Chapters 1-7
- 10/23/15: * Confucius / Chapters 8 & 9 (Highlights) & Assign Final Presentation
- 10/30/15: * Kant / Chapters 10, 11, & 12 (Highlights)
- 11/06/15: * Mill / Midterm Review & Happiness Paper Due
- 11/13/15: Final Presentations
- 11/20/15: Final Presentations
- 11/27/15: Thanksgiving Break
- 12/04/15: Final Presentations

* Reading quiz on philosopher of day done in the first 15 minutes.
No makeups but only best 7 out of 9 will be counted toward grade.