

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts
Philosophy Department
Bus/Phil 186, Professional and Business Ethics, section 7
Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	William H. Shaw
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Office Hours:	MW 9:45-10: and 1:30-2:00 T 12:00-1:00
Class Days/Time:	MW 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	WSQ 109
Prerequisites:	passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST); completion of, or co-registration in, 100W; upper-division standing (60 units)
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	S

Course Description

Catalogue 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.”

Professional and Business Ethics examines some critical philosophical and ethical issues that arise in business and professional practice as well as in the appraisal of our business system as a whole. In addition to wrestling with a number of substantive issues concerning business and society, the course endeavors to improve the ability of students to analyze and assess moral arguments and to think critically and independently about ethical issues. The course also challenges you to reflect both on the nature and role of business in our society and on the values you seek to uphold in your working life. Although the topics to be covered are important, and students should be prepared to work hard, discussing these issues should prove fun as well.

The course begins by looking at the nature of morality, individual moral responsibility, and some basic normative theories. We then examine competing conceptions of justice, the nature of the American business system today, and the fundamental question of what responsibilities corporations have to society. This sets the backdrop for the analysis and discussion in the rest of the course of a variety of more specific moral issues

concerning consumers, the environment, and the workplace—issues that employers and employees must often face.

Learning Outcomes

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Bus/Phil 186 is a SJSU Studies Area S course and therefore also has as its learning objectives that students should 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. The homework assignments and examinations are linked to these goals.

Required Texts/Readings

The required textbook is William H. Shaw and Vincent Barry, *Moral Issues in Business*, 13th edition (Wadsworth/Cengage 2016—ISBN-13: 978-1-285-87432-6; ISBN-10: 1-285-87432-3). You need this edition of the book, not an older, out-of-date edition. New and used copies are available at the Spartan Bookstore. A less expensive option may be to rent a copy of the book at www.CengageBrain.com or Amazon. All assignments are from the textbook.

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>.

Homework Assignments

During the semester, there will be 15 homework assignments, in which you will be asked to give your own reflections and ideas about some aspect of the reading assignment for that day. Homework assignments will be graded on a credit/half-credit/no-credit basis. (Exceptionally good homework may sometimes receive extra credit.)

Grading scale: 4 or 5 credits = D; 6, 7, or 8 credits = C; 9 credits = C+; 10 credits = B-; 11 or 12 credits = B; 13 credits = B+; 14 or 15 credits = A.

You must submit your homework in class and in person on the day it is due. *Late homework will not be accepted.* However, if for some reason you cannot attend class that day, you can email me your homework before class for half-credit.

Examinations

There will be three exams during the semester, and a final exam at the end of the course. Each exam carries equal weight in determining your semester grade. The exams will be multiple choice, so you will need to bring a scantron with you (the blue T&E 200 answer sheet). The exam questions will cover the assigned readings (whether or not they have been discussed in class) as well as any additional material covered in lectures or class discussion. I will

give you more specific guidance before each exam. If you must miss an exam, you must contact me before the exam to make special arrangements. Otherwise, *missed exams cannot be made up.*

Class Involvement

Because this is a philosophy class, dialogue and discussion are important parts of it. In addition there will be some in-class assignments and small group projects. Therefore it is important that you come to class (with your textbook), prepared, and ready to discuss the course material. In determining your semester grade, I will take into account your preparation for and participation in class discussion. If you are on the borderline between two grades, your class involvement will determine which grade you receive.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Semester Grade

Your semester grade is thus a function of the following factors:

- Three exams during the term (16% each)
- Final examination (16%)
- Homework (36%)
- Class involvement (variable)

“Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--- registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Laptop Policy

I want your undivided attention in class; therefore, I do not allow laptops to be used. Taking notes is always a good idea, but do it on paper and then enter them into your computer later when you can re-visit and expand on them and add your notes on the reading.

Attendance Contest

Students in the class are invited to participate in the attendance contest. You are not required to participate; the contest is purely voluntary. To win the contest (there can be more than one winner), you must have perfect attendance. This means that you have (a) missed no classes, (b) been on time to every class, and (c) been in class for the whole period. It’s called a “contest,” in part, because there are no excuses whatsoever. No matter

how good the reason, if you have to miss class, then you don't have perfect attendance and can't win the contest. (I realize that an element of luck enters into this; that's another reason for calling it a "contest.")

University Policies

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), 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 as a next step.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <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.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays (Optional)

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) 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.

SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 24	Introduction
1	Aug 26	MORAL PERSPECTIVES Chapter 1, pages 1 to 17
2	Aug 31	Chapter 1, pages 17 to 22; case 1.2 (“Just Drop Off the Key”) and case 1.3 (“The A7D Affair”); <i>homework #1</i>
2	Sept 2	Chapter 2, pages 54–72
3	Sept 7	Labor Day – no class
3	Sept 9	Chapter 2, pages 72–82; <i>homework #2</i>
4	Sept 14	cases 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3; <i>homework #3</i>
4	Sept 16	First Exam
5	Sept 21	JUSTICE, CAPITALISM, AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY Chapter 3, pages 105–120; case 3.3 (“Poverty in America”)
5	Sept 23	Chapter 3, pages 120–128; <i>homework #4</i>
6	Sept 28	Haslett, “Is Inheritance Justified?” pages 143–149; <i>homework #5</i>
6	Sept 30	Chapter 4, pages 150–167
7	Oct 5	Chapter 4, pages 168–173; cases 4.1, 4.2, and 4.6; <i>homework #6</i>
7	Oct 7	Daly, “Globalization and Its Discontents,” pages 182–186 Schumacher, “Buddhist Economics,” pages 195–198; <i>homework #7</i>
8	Oct 12	Chapter 5, pages 202–226
8	Oct 14	Mackey, Friedman, and Rodgers, “A Debate . . .,” pages 244–252, and cases 5.4 (“Corporations and Religious Faith”) and 5.6 (“Corporate Taxation”) <i>homework #8</i>
9	Oct 19	Second Exam
9	Oct 21	BUSINESS AND CONSUMERS Chapter 6, pages 262–271 and 283–295 only
10	Oct 26	cases 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.5; <i>homework #9</i>
10	Oct 28	BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT Chapter 7, pages 331–337 and 347–354 only
11	Nov 2	Singer, “The Place of Nonhumans in Environmental Issues,” pages 366–371 <i>homework #10</i>
11	Nov 4	EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES Chapter 8, pages 379–385 only; cases 8.3 and 8.4 <i>homework #11</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Nov 9	Chapter 9, pages 434–445 only; cases 9.1, 9.2, and 9.5; DesJardins and Duska, “Drug Testing in Employment,” pages 468–472; <i>homework #12</i>
12	Nov 11	Veterans Day – no class
13	Nov 16	Chapter 10, pages 493–519
13	Nov 18	Elegido, “Does It Make Sense to Be a Loyal Employee?” pp. 528–533; cases 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5; <i>homework #13</i>
14	Nov 23	Third Exam
14	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Holiday – no class
15	Nov 30	DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE Chapter 11, pages 558–574
15	Dec 2	Chapter 11, pages 574–579; Schultz, “Rethinking Sexual Harassment,” pages 594–600; cases 11.2 (“Hoop Dreams”) and 11.4 (“Consenting to Sexual Harassment”) <i>homework #14</i>
16	Dec 7	Corvino, “Job Discrimination and Gay Rights,” pages 601–606; case 11.5 (“Facial Discrimination”); <i>homework #15</i>
Final Exam	Dec 15	WSQ 109 9:45 a.m.

It’s possible the schedule may change. If so, you will be notified in class or by email.