

San José State University
Humanities and Arts/Philosophy Department
Phil/Bus 186-08,-12, Professional and Business Ethics, Fall '15

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Dan C. Williamson
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Office Hours:	MW 3-4pm; TTh 1:30-2:30
Class Days/Time:	MW -08, 10:30-11:45pm; -12, 12-1:15pm
Classroom:	-08, -12 BBC 222
Prerequisites:	“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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf .

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Area S

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as the syllabus and class protocols can be found on Canvas. Other documents will be made available there with appropriate notification in class.

Course Description

The course covers interdisciplinary studies of types of ethical problems that arise within the contexts, and as a result of, business and the professions. Considered are major ethical theories, critique of economic justice, and decision-making techniques. We focus on issues of justice and equality in the U.S. Case studies are considered.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes, if applicable

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1 Describe how religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age identity are shaped by cultural and societal influences in contexts of equality and inequality.

*Several of the assignments include these issues including the section on discrimination and sexual harassment. Students will have the opportunity to explore this both in presentations and written work **Assessment Activity will be based on the Final Examination.***

LO 2 Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.; *The section on Capitalism and corporations address these issues in specific detail. Students will, as above have the opportunity, to explore this in both discussion as well as homework, midterm, final and papers. **Assessment activity can be based on one of the following three:** 1) the second midterm and 2) the paper assignment.*

LO 3 Describe social actions by religious, gender ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age groups leading to greater equality and social justice in the US;

*Part One of Velasquez's Business Ethics covers this area of detail by exploring several aspects of justice that this course encourages the students to contemplate across a range of issues and in multiple assignments. Both required readings also address these issues and students should be able to gain an ability to recognize the issues by writing about them, as well as in discussion. **Assessment activity:** the papers.*

LO 4 Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.;

Assessment activity: 2nd midterm, embedded questions.

Course Content Learning Objectives:

Students will develop the facility to recognize, construct and debate ethical issues pertaining to business in a philosophically appropriate manner. **Assessment activity:** the first midterm.

The course also provides the basis for the above by covering moral argumentation and major moral theories. **Assessment activity:** the group activities, tests and papers.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Shaw, William H. and Barry, *Moral Issues in Business*, 13th ed., Belmont, California; Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2016. (SB)

Additional Readings: There may be instances where the class will read an online article or additional item for the class. These will be announced in class with the appropriate links provided.

Course Requirements and Assignments

“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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

a. *Reading*

All reading should be completed prior to the date that the readings are discussed. See the schedule below. You won't get as much out of the lectures if you don't. And, of course, it will affect your grade.

b. *Writing*

This course has a minimum of 3000 words of written work, per advanced GE course standards. Students are provided feedback on all written work. You should at all times conform to the tenets of correct English grammar. Sloppy grammar, incorrect punctuation and spelling will all affect your grade.

papers There are two separate short position papers based on ethical issues in business. I will hand out a separate sheet detailing the paper topics and instructions for the papers. There are no rewrite options. The first paper is worth less and is meant to be preparation for the last somewhat longer paper. The last paper therefore has higher points. The last paper requires library research using appropriate academic sources and evidenced by a properly formatted bibliography.

All papers should be turned in to Turnitin.com, course number and password will be on the instructions which will be available on my website. I'll announce when I have posted the instructions.

homework You will receive some short homework assignments that are meant to be preparatory work for the papers and for the midterms and final.

midterms and final Both midterms and final are a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and short essay. All are closed book unless otherwise noted. The final is cumulative with an emphasis on what has been taught after the second midterm. Review sheets will be handed out prior to each test and discussed in class.

c. *Active Learning* Engaging in discussion is to your benefit, even with a larger classes.

participation I give 25 participation points reflecting your overall performance in the class. Make yourself noticed by speaking up, positively and constructively, please.

This is not an attendance grade, although if you don't speak up in class, I'm inclined to award only a percentage of these points such as 10 or 15 points maximum.

group activities I typically divide the class up into several groups, of approximately four to five members each. Each group argues a particular case or issue pro or con. The aim is to have students gain a facility in appropriate moral and philosophical reasoning, as applied to the themes of the course outlined above. Instruction sheets will be passed out; 50 points.

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

d. Grade Breakdown:

Homework	50 (points per assignment will vary and the total might go higher)
Position Papers	100 (points on individual papers: 35/65)
Participation	25
Group	50
Midterms	100 (50 points each)
Final	<u>125</u>
	450

Grading is done on a strict 10% scale on all assignments. I don't normally use a curve. All final grades are final unless there was an instructor error in calculation.

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

A separate protocol sheet will be distributed and discussed in class the first day.

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.” 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. The professor usually does this verbally, but can require documentation.
- “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

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>.

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Course Schedule

The following dates and assignments are subject to change with fair notice. All readings based on the 13th ed. of Shaw/Barry

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Course introduction ; For next time read Chapter 1, all case studies and the readings “Moral Responsibility in the Age of Bureaucracy” (pg. 46), “When Everybody’s Doing It” (pg. 96); As soon as you can, begin Chapter 2, all case studies
2	8/25, 8/28	Continue: Ethics and ethical argumentation
3	9/1, 9/3	Ethical Theory, mainly Chapter 2 continued; 9/1 is the last day to drop; this is the student’s responsibility
4	9/8, 9/10	Continued; Group work this week or beginning next. 9/9 is the last day to add
5	9/15, 9/17	<u><i>The World of Work I: Justice and Equality</i></u> Capitalism and Corporations, <i>For this week and the next three weeks read: SB, Chapters 4-5, all case studies, Readings: TBA First midterm this week or next</i>
6	9/22, 9/24	<u><i>Alternative Approaches to Morality: Buddhism</i></u> Read in SB: Schumacher, “Buddhist Economics,” pg. 197, additional handouts and lecture material possible. The course will consider this area as part of the section on capitalism, either in this week or next. Read this one article for now. <i>First paper due this week or next</i>
7	9/29, 10/1	Capitalism and Corporations, continued and read Chapters 6- 7, all cases and selected readings (TBA)
8	10/6, 10/8	Continued; Group work this week or after the break, depending on the progress of the lectures
9	10/13, 10/15	Continue and review/group work.
11	10/20, 10/22	<i>Second midterm this week or next.</i> The class will begin the next section, so be prepared.
11	10/27, 10/29	<u><i>The World of Work II; the Workplace and Diversity in the Workplace</i></u> Workplace Ethics: Read in SB, Chapters 8-9, 11 all cases, and a portion of Chapter 10. Readings: Werhane and Radin, pg. 417, DesJardins and Duska, pg. 468, Lippke, pg. 473; possible additional readings from Chapter 10
12	11/3, 11/5	Workplace ethics, continued lecture.
13	11/10, 11/12	Continued lecture
14	11/17, 11/19	Continue lecture and begin groups
15	11/24, 11/26	Groups 11/26 no class, Thanksgiving

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
16	12/1, 12/3	Groups and review
16	12/8	Last Day, <i>The final paper is due either on the last day of class or the day of the final</i>
Final Exam		<i>Final Exams are to be taken with the same section and in the same room</i> 186-08 Final: 12/16, Wednesday, 0945-1200 186-12 Final: 12/11, Friday, 0945-1200