

San José State University
Humanities and Arts/Philosophy Department
Phil/Bus3 186-10,-12, Professional and Business Ethics, Spring '18

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Dan C. Williamson
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Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30am and *by appointment*
TTH 12:15-1:15pm and *by appointment*
Class Days/Time: -10 TTh 10:30-11:45am
-12 TTh 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom: MH 324; both sections
Prerequisites: See below “For Upper Division Courses (R, S, V)”

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.”

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Area S

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as the syllabus and class protocols can be found on Canvas, under “files” for this course. Other documents will be made available there with appropriate notification in class. *It is the student’s responsibility to read and review the materials there.*

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

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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students will develop the facility to recognize, construct and present ethical issues pertaining to business in a philosophically appropriate manner. **Assessment activity:** the first midterm and group assignments (below).

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.

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

1. Reason and argue for what is ethical or not in a given business situation.
2. The student will be able to present these arguments in a written form appropriate to a college-level paper.

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. Interests this semester include Big Pharma and Environmental Concerns. There are many ethical issues surrounding both. Any additional assignments 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 post on Canvas paper topics and instructions for the papers. This will be discussed in class. There are no rewrite options. The first paper is worth less (35 points) and is meant to be preparation for the last somewhat longer paper. The last paper therefore has higher points (65 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. The points on this will vary, depending on the assignments. All assignments will be posted in advance on Canvas.

midterms Both midterms are a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and short essay. All are closed book unless otherwise noted. Review sheets will be made available before each midterm. Midterms are 50 points each

Final Examination

The final is cumulative with an emphasis on what has been taught after the second midterm and will follow the same form and content (e.g.: true/false, multiple choice and short essay). Review sheets will be made available for the final. The final is 125 points.

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 18 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.

Grading Information

Separate instructions will be available on Canvas for papers, group and as noted for homework and review. These explain what student should be able to do for a grade in each activity.

I grade on points. I provide percentages below. Each assignment will follow something similar to the following:

The assignment is a midterm and is valued at 50 points.

50-45 A
44-39 B
38-33 C
32-27 D
26 and below F

Similarly, the final grade would be calculated thus:

450-427 A 23 pts
426-404 A- 22 pts
403- 388 B+ 15 pts
387-362 B “
361-346 B- “

And following based on 10% for each grade range and then broken down proportionally within each range.

d. Grade Breakdown:

Homework	50 (points per assignment will vary and the total might go higher or lower)	11%
Position Papers	100 (points on individual papers: 35/65)	22% (appx)
Participation	25	5-6%
Group	50	11%
Midterms	100 (50 points each)	11/22%
Final	<u>125</u>	27% appx
	450	

Please see the Classroom Protocol sheet for all information regarding late assignments and other relevant issues. I will accept *some* late work, depending on good reasons. But repeated late assignments could result in a reduction of the grade, excluding midterms and finals. If you can't make a midterm or need to reschedule a final, please check with me for such arrangements. Not taking the final is *not* an option.

- **For upper division GE courses (R, S, V):**

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Classroom Protocol

As above, a separate protocol sheet will be available on Canvas under “files”.

University Policies (Required)

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

Briefly, students are expected to behave in a responsible fashion worthy of a college student. It goes without saying that in a course on ethics, ethical behavior is mandatory and any variation from that is simply not acceptable. For those with special needs, please know that you are welcome in this class and I will do all I can to accommodate your needs.

For more detail and other issues, please consult the “Classroom Protocol” sheet available in Canvas in this class under “files.”

Phil. 186-010, -012 Professional and Business Ethics, Spring '18 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	1/25	<i>Course introduction</i> ; 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	1/30, 2/1	Continue: Ethics and ethical argumentation from Chapter 1
3	2/6, 2/8	Ethical Theory, mainly Chapter 2 continued; 2/5 is the last day to drop; this is the student’s responsibility
4	2/13, 2/15	Continued; 2/12 is the last day to add ; A couple of groups this week or beginning of next.
5	2/20, 2/22	<i>First midterm this week, after the group work and then on to the next section:</i> <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</i> ; we should also bring in environmental issues and questions about the pharmaceutical industries. See Chapter 7, <i>SB</i>
6	2/27, 3/1	Continued <i>First paper due this week or next; class will be advised</i>
7	3/6, 3/8	Capitalism and Corporations, continued and read Chapters 6- 7, all cases and selected readings (TBA) .
8	3/13, 3/15	<u><i>Alternative Approaches to Morality: Buddhism</i></u> Read in <i>SB</i> : 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.
9	3/20, 3/22	Continue and review/group work;
11	3/27, 3/29	Spring Recess
12	4/3, 4/5	<i>Second midterm this week or next, depending on where we are with group work.</i> The class will begin the next section right after, so be prepared: <u><i>The World of Work II; the Workplace and Diversity in the Workplace</i></u> Workplace Ethics: Read in <i>SB</i> , 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
13	4/10, 4/12	Workplace ethics, continued lecture; I will advise on our progress through the chapters in class.
14	4/17, 4/19	Continued lecture

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	4/24, 4/26	Continue lecture;
16	5/1, 5/3	Groups and review
17	5/8, 5/10	Groups and review 5/10 Last Day
Final Exam		<p><i>Final Exams are to be taken with the same section and in the same room for each respective class; no switching around without prior approval of the Associate Dean and for good reason.</i></p> <p><i>Sec. -10, 5/22 0945-1200</i> <i>Sec. -12 5/16 1215-1430</i></p>