

San José State University

College of Humanities and the Arts/Philosophy Department

Moral Issues: FALL 2015

Philosophy 61:05; 41912

Instructor:	Janet Giddings, M.A. Philosophy; M.A. Theology
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Email:	Janet.giddings@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. and by arrangement
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.
Classroom:	DMH 357

GE C2; 3 units

Faculty Web Page and MY SJSU Messaging

This course is a lecture, class discussion, and group workshop format. Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, assignment directives, etc. may be found in *Canvas*.

Course Description

[In this course we will study] moral philosophy covering major ethical theories and contemporary moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, capital punishment, and sexuality.

GE Learning Goals:

In this course students will,

1. Examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination;
2. Understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created; and

3. Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

GE Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns;
2. Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses, and
3. Write clearly and effectively.

Required Texts/Readings

Shaw, William H. *Social and Personal Ethics*. 8th ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth - Cengage Learning, 2014.

Library Contact

Silke Higgins
Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu

Classroom Protocol

The best way to achieve the optimum grade is to come to class for lecture, discussion, and group conversations. 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.

Tardiness is disruptive to the professor and students. Any more than 2 tardy's will result in a lower participation grade and if consistent, a reduction in the overall final grade.

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.

NO LAPTOP use in class. No texting or using electronics. Use the restroom prior to tests. If you text in class more than twice, you may be asked to leave the classroom; and, if you persist, the instructor will report for disruptive behavior.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/webdbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html>. Information about late drop is available at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assessment and Grading Policy: 100 points possible

- 20: Informed Class participation. This means your participation in discussion is informed by your reading the assignment for the day. Your comments and/or questions are pertinent to discussion topic. In-class writing will be included in this grade. Group work, films, argumentation, work at the board, are all part of participation. A student who talks off topic may be interrupted by the professor so the discussion can be redirected to the appropriate place.
(GE Goal 1,2,3; and GELO 1,2). In-class writing = writing requirement
- 10: Explorative paper: A 3 page paper which explores a moral issue using 1 scholarly source. The paper will include the 1 source as a Works Cited entry at the end of the paper. (GE Goals; and GELO all)
- 40: An argumentative paper with research :
4 page minimum plus Works Cited page (5 pages) **Two** scholarly sources required.
(GELO 1,2,3). This paper helps fulfill the writing requirement for this course.
- 20: 2 Tests: Chapters 1-3; Chapters 13-14
Tests require the test booklet. Personal and critical/analytical responses to readings.
*(GELO 1,2). Tests may be both essay and multiple choice to meet course goals.
Written test helps fulfill the writing requirement for this course.*
- 10: Final: In-class Ethics Bowl competition and Paper for Final:
Group case study and presentation (5pt). You must be present in class for all formal Group discussions and preparation; you must present/judge with the group; and, FINAL papers from each participant due on day of the Final (5 pt). The papers will be uploaded into **Canvas**.
(GELO 1,2,3)

NOTE: Late papers will be accepted with a 50% reduction only with a legitimate reason (work or family related); no papers more than 2 days late.

- ***NO make-up tests unless documented medical emergency. Make sure you are present for both tests. There will be NO exceptions.***
- ***Papers are not accepted electronically; in-class only.***
- ***Students must be present for all group presentations, not only their own.***

“A” Paper Guideline/Giddings

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.

University Policies

Academic Senate Policy S 12-3:

“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.”

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 as a next step.

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require 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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at 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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 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 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 AEC to establish a record of their disability.”

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

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/>.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>.

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>.

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:

- “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.”

Note:

No audio or visual (by cell phone, computers, video recorder or any other device) equipment may be used in class without the instructor and or DRC’s explicit written approval. No laptop use during class time; write notes and transfer them. No texting or use of phones. See above on texting in the classroom during class time.

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

Note: This schedule could change due to current events. It is the student's *responsibility* to remain informed.

Week One

Thursday August 20	Introduction; syllabus discussion
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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: Chapters 1 & 2

Tuesday September 1	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Ethics
Thursday September 3	Chapter 2: Ethical Relativism

Week Four: Chapter 3: Four Ethical Perspectives

Tuesday September 8	Essays: Aristotle; Immanuel Kant
Thursday September 10	Mill; Ross

Week Five

Tuesday September 15	Online quiz due; In-class writing today
Thursday September 17	Overview and practice of applied theory

Week Six: Chapters 4, 5,6

Tuesday September 22	Chapter 4: Suicide: Brandt; Hardwig
Thursday September 24	Chapter 5: Thomson Chapter 6: Machan

Week Seven: Chapter 7: Liberty

Tuesday September 29	Essays: Mill; Di Muzio
Thursday October 1	Paper 1 due: Explorative

Week Eight: Chapter 8: Sexual Morality, Marriage, and Family

Tuesday October 6	Groups 1& 2: Corvino/	Groups 3&4: Pakaluk
Thursday October 8	Groups 5&6: English/	Groups 7&8: Bartlett

Week Nine: Chapter 9: Voting and Democracy

Tuesday October 13	Groups 9&10: Lomasky/Brennan
Thursday October 15	Film in class

Week Ten: Chapter 10: Crime, Guns, and Rights

Tuesday October 20	Groups 1 & 2: Dixon
Thursday October 22	Groups 3 & 4: Huemer

Week Eleven: Chapter 11: Guns/Violence; and Chapter 12: Torture

Tuesday October 27	Groups 5 & 6: Shaw	Groups 7 & 8: Van den Haag
Thursday October 29		Groups 9 & 10: McMahan

Week Twelve

Tuesday November 3		Paper 2 due: Argument
Thursday November 5		Film: Sara Bartmann

Week Thirteen: Race, Discrimination,

Tuesday November 10		Obama; Wang
Thursday November 12	Human-trafficking:	In-class Film and Groups meet

Week Fourteen: Social Justice

Tuesday November 17		Isbister; Haslett
Thursday November 19		In-class meeting of Groups

Week Fifteen

Tuesday November 24	In-class quiz:	Chapters 13 and 14; bring small booklet
Thursday November 26		NO CLASS: HOLIDAY

Week Sixteen

Tuesday December 1	Anti-human trafficking	Ethics Bowl: Groups 1,2,3,4,5
Thursday December 3		Ethics Bowl: Groups 6,7,8,9,10

Week Seventeen

Tuesday December 8		Ethics Bowl winners
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The Final is due on: Thursday, 12/10 by 2:30 p.m.
Upload the Final into Canvas