

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 186, Professional and Business Ethics, Section 5, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Michael Jordan
Office Location: FOB 208
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Office Hours: MW 7-8:45am
Class Days/Time: MW 3-4:15pm
Classroom: MacQuarrie 324

Prerequisite: Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing.

Course Description

Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the contexts and as a result of business and the professions. Major ethical theories, critique of economic justice, and decision-making techniques. Focus is on issues of justice and equality in the U. S. Case studies.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Bus/Phil 186 meets the SJSU Studies, Area S, Self, Society & Equality in the U. S. The course objectives for Area S courses will be pursued throughout the course. In keeping with those objectives, upon successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

- a. Describe how religious, gender, ethnic, racial class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age identity are shaped by cultural and social influences in contexts of equality and inequality
- b. Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U. S.
- c. 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 U. S.
- d. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in the U. S.

Course Learning Objectives: After successfully completing this course, you will be able to recognize, analyze, and articulate practical strategies to respond to ethical issues that arise in business. Specifically, you will be able to:

- a. comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for practical action.
- b. identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.
- c. demonstrate familiarity with various ethical issues that arise in business, such as insider trading, misuse of corporate resources, conflicts of interest, and sexual and racial harassment.
- d. distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
- e. know how well-managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

Required Readings: All required reading are both open source internet sites and course handouts. URL's can be found on the syllabus and all handouts can be found in "Files" in canvas.

Optional Texts/Readings

Textbook: William Shaw and Vincent Barry, *Moral Issues in Business*, 13th ed., Wadsworth, 2016

ISBN: 9781285874326

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 is 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>.

Points:

Quizzes = 70 points

Papers = 230 points

Total = 300 points

Quizzes/in class writings: There will be **seven** quizzes worth 10 points each. On selected days there will be a quiz at the beginning or the end of the class, which will be based on the specific case study/topic discussed in class that week. All quizzes will be brief in-class essays. There is no make-up for a missed quiz.

Papers: There will be **three** 3-4-page papers assigned throughout the semester. Papers one and two are worth 75 points and paper three is worth 80 points. Due dates can be found on the tentative schedule, topics will be posted on canvas. All papers are to be done in the following format:

Times New Roman 12 pt. font

1" margins all around

Double spaced

Name, Course, Section, and Paper number on the left hand upper corner

Grading: In general, an **A** paper is defined as a paper that has (i) a thesis that is plausible, (ii) a good argument or set of arguments for the thesis, and (iii) a consideration of objections to the argument with responses to the objections. The highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (iii) is a **B**, the highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (ii) is **C**, and the highest grade that a paper can receive for failing to have (i) is a **D**. Success on a paper comes from clear, concise, and comprehensive argumentation in defense of a well thought out thesis.

Extra Credit: There will be two opportunities to earn extra credit points throughout the course. Each EC assignment will be based on an in class activity and will require you to be in class to get credit.

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

There are a total of 300 points.

300-280 = A

269-260 = B+

239-230 = C+

209-199 = D

279-270 = A-

259-250 = B

229-220 = C

198-0 = F

249-240 = B-

219-210 = C-

Points:

Quizzes = 20%

Papers = 80%

Total = 300 points

Late Work Policy: Since it is not fair to other students to turn in late work, I do not accept it unless the circumstances are beyond your control and you discussed it with me prior to the due date. . All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

Canvas: I use canvas in a limited capacity. I will upload all course slides and handouts to 'Files', I will make announcements, I will update your grades.

E-mailing Assignments: If you need to e-mail assignments they must be e-mailed prior to the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Assignments sent after the class is over will be considered late. **IMPORTANT**, if you choose to e-mail me an assignment you must include the course title and section in the 'subject' line and include your full name in the e-mail.

"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."

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

Because this is a philosophy course, classroom discussion plays an important part of it. Dialogue and discussion are central to philosophy, but they presuppose that YOU have studied (i.e., read, re-read, and taken notes on) the material that is being discussed. In addition, there will be small group discussions and in-class projects. For these reasons, I expect you always to come to class (with your textbook) and to come having read carefully the assignment for that day. Philosophy classes have the potential to be fun for you and I but it really depends on your participation.

University Policies

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/>"

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.

- “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.”
- “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

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center 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

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

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

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>.

Phil 186, Professional and Business Ethics, Fall 2018 Course Schedule (schedule is tentative and may change)

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Course Introduction: Business Ethics Lecture: Course Introduction, Syllabus Review
2	8/27	Course Introduction: What is Ethics Optional Reading: Ch.1 pg. 1-29 Lecture: What Ethics is and what Ethics is not
2	8/29	Course Introduction: What is Ethics Optional Reading: Ch.1 pg. 1-29 Lecture: What Ethics is and what Ethics is not Writing Assessment (Lifeguard case study)
3	9/3	OFF
3	9/5	What is Business Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-business/ and Ethical Thinking in Business handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 1 pg. 1-29 Lecture: What is Business Ethics?/Ethical Thinking in Business
4	9/10	What is Business Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-business/ and Ethical Thinking in Business handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 1 pg. 1-29 Lecture: What is Business Ethics?/Ethical Thinking in Business Quiz #1: Case Study-Holding the CEO's feet to the fire
4	9/12	Normative Theories of Ethics` Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/ and https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/ Optional Reading Ch. 2 pg. 54-66 Lecture: Consequentialist Ethical Theories Egoism/Altruism/Utilitarianism
5	9/17	Normative Theories of Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/ and https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/ Optional Reading: Ch. 2 pg. 54-77, case 2.1 Lecture: Consequentialist Ethical Theories Egoism/Altruism/Utilitarianism

5	9/19	<p>Normative Theories of Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/ and https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/ Optional Reading: Ch. 2 pg. 54-77 Canvas hand-out: <i>Hacking into Harvard</i> Quiz #2 (Egoism and Utilitarianism)</p>
6	9/24	<p>Normative Theories of Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/ and https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/ Optional Reading: Ch. 2 pg. 66-82 Lecture: Non-Consequentialist Ethical Theories: Kant/W.D. Ross</p>
6	9/26	<p>Normative Theories of Ethics Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/ and https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/ Optional Reading: Ch. 2 pg. 66-82 Lecture: Non-Consequentialist Ethical Theories: Kant/W.D. Ross Paper #1 Due</p>
7	10/1	<p>Normative Theories of Ethics Read: None Lecture: Documentary-(Dis) Honesty</p>
7	10/3	<p>Normative Theories of Ethics Lecture: (Dis) Honesty Quiz #3</p>
8	10/8	<p>Justice and Economic Distribution Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/original-position/ Optional Reading: Ch. 3 pg. 107-128 Lecture: The Nature of Justice, Rawls's Theory of Justice Case Study: Minimum Wage</p>
8	10/10	<p>Justice and Economic Distribution Read: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/original-position/ Optional Reading: Ch. 3 pg. 107-128 Lecture: The Nature of Justice, Rawls's Theory of Justice</p>
9	10/15	<p>The Morality of Capitalism Read Handout: Capitalism and Morality (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 4 pg. 150-173 Lecture: Capitalism and Morality</p>
9	10/17	<p>The Morality of Capitalism Read Handout: Capitalism and Morality (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 4 pg. 150-173 Lecture: Capitalism, Charity and Morality: Dan Pallotta: http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pallotta_the_way_we_think_about_charity_is_dead_wrong QUIZ #4 (Capitalism, Charity, and Morality)</p>

10	10/22	<u>Corporations and Social Responsibility</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 5 pg. 202-227, Lecture: Corporate Moral Agency and Corporate Social Responsibility
10	10/24	<u>Corporations and Social Responsibility</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 5 pg. 202-227 Lecture: Corporate Social Responsibility/Socially Responsible Businesses
11	10/29	<u>Consumers Rights</u> Lecture: Film <i>Hot Coffee</i>
11	10/31	<u>Consumers Rights</u> Lecture: Film <i>Hot Coffee</i> QUIZ #5
12	11/5	<u>Consumers Rights</u> Optional Reading: Ch. 6 pg. 262-296 Lecture: Deception and Unfairness in Advertising Paper #2 Due
12	11/7	<u>Consumer Responsibilities</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 6 pg. 262-296, Reading 6.3 pg. 324-330 Lecture: Consumerism and Ethical Responsibility
13	11/12	<u>OFF</u>
13	11/14	<u>Business and the Environment</u> Optional Reading: Reading 7.1 pg. 366-371 Lecture: Jobs vs Environment
14	11/19	<u>Business and the Environment</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Reading 7.1 pg. 366-371 Lecture: Jobs vs Environment QUIZ #6 (in class case study)
14	11/21	<u>OFF THANKSGIVING</u>
15	11/26	<u>The Organization and the People in it</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 8 pg. 380-408 Lecture: Moral Issues and the Workplace/ Rights Theories/Civil Liberties in the Workplace

15	11/28	<p><u>The Organization and the People in it</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 8 pg. 380-408 Lecture: Rights Theories/Civil Liberties in the Workplace Case Study: Retail Workers Bill of Rights, San Francisco</p>
16	12/3	<p><u>The Organization and the People in it</u> Read: Handout (see canvas) Optional Reading: Ch. 9 pg. 434-457, Reading 9.2 pg. 476-480 Lecture: Work, Privacy, and Autonomy, Drug Testing in Employment</p>
16	12/5	<p><u>The Organization and the People in it</u> Optional Reading: Ch. 9 pg. 434-457, Reading 9.2 pg. 476-480 Lecture: Work, Privacy, and Autonomy, Drug Testing in Employment QUIZ #7</p>
17	12/10	<p><u>Final Paper Review</u></p>
Final Exam	12/14	<p>12:15-2:30 Final Paper Due</p>

