

San Jose State University

College of Arts & Sciences

Philosophy Department

Professional & Business Ethics

Philosophy 186:07; 26808/Business 186:07; 28972

Spring 2016

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| Instructor: | Janet Giddings, M.A. Philosophy; M.A. Theology |
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| Telephone: | 408-924-4471 |
| Email & Webpage | Janet.giddings@sjsu.edu Also: email through Canvas Website: www.sjsu.edu/people/janet.giddings |
| Office Hours: | Noon to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. |
| Classroom: | BBC 222 |
| Prerequisites: | Upper Division Standing |
| GE/SJSU Studies Category: | Area S: "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S." "Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V with y courses from departments other than the major department. y Completion of, or co-registration in, a 100Wycourse is strongly y recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & Vy shall be required of all students." y |

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on the course **Canvas** site. Most communication will occur through Canvas however; you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU as well.

Course Description

This course involves an interdisciplinary study of ethical and moral issues that arise within the contexts and as a result of business and the professions. It involves a study of major ethical theories, critique of economic justice, and decision-making techniques. Our primary focus is on issues of justice and equality in the US facilitated by case studies and group discussion.

Student Learning Objectives (SLO's)

Bus/Phil 186 meets SJSU Studies Area S, "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S." The course objectives for Area S courses will be pursued throughout the course.

Student Learning Objectives

A. Course Goals (GE)

Students will study the interrelationship of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, equality, and structured inequality in the U.S., its institutions, and its cultures.

2. Student Learning

After successfully completing the course, students shall 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.

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to recognize, analyze, and articulate solutions to ethical issues that arise in business.

Specifically, you will be able to:

- Comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for action.
- Identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.

- 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.
- Distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
- Know how well managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

Course Content Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Students will also learn and develop,

5. an awareness that the moral dimensions of life does not vanish but rather expands in the context of business,
6. an understanding of basic moral concepts as tools for assessing the moral realities of business and professional life,
7. the ability to participate constructively in collective discussion and decision making about the moral dimension of business and professional life.

Textbook

Shaw, William, and Vincent Barry. *Moral Issues in Business*. 13th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

Note: you will need this book and this edition for the course. The text is available in the Spartan Bookstore. You can also buy or rent @ CengageBrain.com.

Other Readings

There may be topical issues in the news and you may be asked to read something posted on my website. Stay informed.

Classroom Protocol

The best way to achieve the optimum grade is to come to class for lecture and discussion. Philosophical discussion includes argumentation, which means logical reasoning of justifications for your position on a topic. This requires practice and group work. Argumentation does not mean hateful language or anger toward other students or the professor. Courtesy will be shown to the professor both in class and out of class, either in meetings or on campus in general.

Tardiness is disruptive. You will lose “Participation Points” for consistent tardiness (3 = consistent; If you are late every class you forfeit ALL participation points = 20). 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 and say, “excuse me.” This is common courtesy (or should be).

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 section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at: http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy: 100 points possible

20: Informed participation: means you have read the assignments prior to class and while in class you demonstrate that. When the professor asks questions on the reading your answer shows you are informed by what you have read. When discussing cases you also show you read the case prior to class and you demonstrate respect for, and critical assessment of the case. In-class group work and homework will also count for some of the 20 points of participation, as well as active listening and thinking. No credit is given for superfluous comments. Disruptive comments or comments off topic will not be tolerated. If a student talks off topic and/or unrelated to the reading or discussion rubric, the professor may interrupt the student to bring the discussion back on track.

Participation may include: in-class writing; group work at the board or seated; attentive listening; attentive to any films shown; argumentation either individual or group; presentation of readings by groups, and homework assignments.

If you are not in class you lose participation points. Basically this is the breakdown:

- In every class meeting to participate and demonstrate you have read if asked; participate in active listening, etc. = A
- In most class meetings to participate, missing 1-2 participation opportunities; demonstrate you have read if asked = A-
- Not in class for 3-4 class meetings; demonstrate you have read, participate in all ways: B
- Not in class 5-6 or more class meetings to participate = C
- 7 or more missed participation meetings = F/0
- Also, consistent tardiness negatively affects your participation grade. See above.
- If you use your phone in class you will be asked to leave; this affects your grade.

University Policy F-69-24

Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student.

20: Test 1: *Chapters 1,2,3,4. Test is multiple choice and True/False. This test covers: Morality; Normative theories of ethics; Justice; Economic distribution; the Nature of Capitalism. (SLO 1,2,3,4,6). This test may be an in-class or Canvas test.*

20: Test 2: *Chapters 5,6,7,8. Test is short answer, short essay, and longer essay. This test covers: Corporations; Consumers; Environment; and Workplace 1. (SLO 6 & 7). This test may be an in-class test or, in Canvas.*

20: Paper: *Research/Argument paper: Six pages of writing with 1-2 pages of Works Cited/Works Consulted list. Three scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles required as a minimum. The quality of your research will be evaluated as well as the content and final draft of the paper. See what is an “A” paper, below. Upload to Canvas (SLO 1-7)*

20: Final: *will cover Chapters 9,10,11. Multiple choice and/or True/False. This test covers: Workplace 2; Moral Choices facing employees; and Job Discrimination. (SLO 1-5) This test may be an in-class test, or on Canvas.*

- Late papers are NOT accepted in this course unless you have a documented medical emergency.
- No make-up tests unless documented medical emergency
- All work must be the work of the student enrolled in the course.
- All papers will follow MLA or APA formatting; **no cover sheet.**
- Unstapled papers will NOT be accepted.
- Extra credit may be offered in this course but not absolutely. Any extra credit that may be offered will not make up for incomplete or assignments not turned in. Extra credit points are used the same way to all students.
- Emailed papers will not be accepted. Hard copy at class time/due date unless required to upload the paper into Canvas.
- Failure to complete any homework assignments will result in reduced participation grade.

“A” paper guidelines:

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.

SJSU Administration states this requirement:

“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.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, 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 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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 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 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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their requirements. Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date. This is the student's responsibility.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. Professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges staff the Center. 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/>.

Important student conduct

Tardiness is disruptive: 1 or 2 times late to class is understandable; more than that is not. Your final grade will be dropped ½ grade (A to A-) for 3 or more late arrivals to class and for each tardy after that it will be reduced the same. If you are tardy every class you lose total participation points as well. If you arrive to class late please do not allow the door to slam and find a seat quietly. Do NOT walk in front of the professor when she is lecturing. Instead, with respect, walk behind and find a seat.

NO visual or auditory taping in class unless you have explicit written permission from the Disability Resource Center or the professor. **Use of laptops, phones or other devices are not allowed in class.** Write your notes and transfer to your laptop after class. You will be required to use technology outside of class; in class we will use human-to-human processes. If you use a device in class you will be asked to leave and you will not be able to participate.

Grading

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| 95-100 = A | 80-84 = B | 65-69 = C | 50-54 = D |
| 90-94 = A- | 75-79 = B- | 60-64 = C- | 49 and below = Fail |
| 85-89 = B+ | 70-74 = C+ | 55-59 = D+ | |

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. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> . 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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

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.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

If you think this course is too much of a challenge at this time it is your responsibility to drop the course in the required/appropriate schedule. See drop dates.

No taping of any kind (audio or visual) of the instructor or students.

Conclusion:

Having stated all the rules and regulations of this contract, I hope you will learn and enjoy our work. I am dedicated to teaching and working with students in a friendly classroom environ. This course offers exciting ideas and challenges us to think about our own moral standards and the standards of others.

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

Note: This schedule could change. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and current on the schedule and assignments

Week One *Welcome and introduction to the course*

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| Thursday January 28 | Welcome; Syllabus & course rules; Introduction to ethical thinking in a business setting |
| | Make sure you have purchased your textbook for next class |

Week Two *The Nature of Morality; Normative Theories of Ethics*

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| Tuesday Feb 2 | Chapter 1 Case 1.3 |
| Thursday Feb 4 | Chapter 2 Case 2.3 |

Week Three *Justice & Economic Distribution; The Nature of Capitalism*

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| Tuesday Feb 9 | Chapter 3 Cases 3.3 |
| Thursday Feb 11 | Chapter 4 Case 4.6 |

Week Four *Review; Test 1*

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| Tuesday Feb 16 | Practice applying theories |
| Thursday Feb 18 | Chapter 1,2,3,4 review for test Canvas Test: Chapters 1,2,3,4 Opens @ 6 p.m. today and closes tomorrow, Friday 2/19, at 11 p.m. Once you begin the test you must complete. |

Week Five *Corporations*

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| Tuesday Feb 23 | Chapter 5 |
| Thursday Feb 25 | Cases 5.4 |

Week Six *Consumers*

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| Tuesday March 1 | Chapter 6 |
| Thursday March 3 | Cases 6.3 |

Week Seven *The Environment*

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| Tuesday March 8 | Chapter 7 |
| Thursday March 10 | Cases 7.4 |

Week Eight *The Workplace (1): Basic Issues*

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| Tuesday March 15 | Chapter 8 Case 8.3 |
| Thursday March 17 | In-class review of Chapters 5,6,7,8 Test in Canvas: test opens at 6 p.m. tonight and closes at 11 p.m. Friday, March 18 th . You must complete the test within the time allowed. Testing time: 80 minutes. |

Week Nine *The Business of Human Trafficking*

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| Tuesday March 22 | Student groups to present findings: Groups 1,2,3,4 |
| Thursday March 24 | Student groups to present findings: Groups 5,6,7,8 |

Week Ten

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| Tuesday March 29 | SPRING RECESS: NO SCHOOL |
| Thursday March 31 | SPRING RECESS: NO SCHOOL |

Week Eleven *The Workplace (2): Today's Challenges*

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| Tuesday April 5 | Chapter 9 |
| Thursday April 7 | Case 9.5 |

Week Twelve ***Moral Choices Facing Employees***

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| Tuesday April 12 | Chapter 10; and Case 10.3 Ethics Bowl Cases assigned today |
| Thursday April 14 | Chapter 11; and Case 11.3 |

Week Thirteen ***Job Discrimination***

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| Tuesday April 19 | Research/Argument paper due today by noon Upload to Canvas In-class discussion of papers |
| Thursday April 21 | Ethics Bowl Cases assigned today |

Week Fourteen ***Groups meet for 'mock' Ethics Bowl strategizing: Must attend***

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| Tuesday April 26 | Groups meet in class to strategize Case |
| Thursday April 28 | Groups meet to finish argument strategy |

Week Fifteen ***Ethics Bowl: All students required to attend***

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| Tuesday May 3 | Ethics Bowl: Groups 1 & 2 Groups 3 & 4 |
| Thursday May 5 | Ethics Bowl: Groups 5 & 6 Groups 7 & 8 |

Week Sixteen

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| Tuesday May 10 | Ethics Bowl: Groups 9 & 10 Groups 11 & 12 |
| Thursday May 12 | In-class Review for Final Chapters 9, 10, 11 |

FINAL: In Canvas

Time: May 23: 2:45 to 5:00 p.m.