

San José State University Department of Philosophy
Phil/Bus 186, Professional and Business Ethics Sec 09
Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Trevor Gullion

Office Location: FOB 233

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Office Hours: Fridays 9:00 to 10:45

Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursday 9:00 to 10:15

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 324

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or instructor consent.

Area S, "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S."

GE/SJSU Studies
Category:

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: "Courses to meet Areas R, S, and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments, or distinct academic units."

Course Description and Goals

This course will examine the ethical and moral issues within contemporary business practices and their impact on society. We will be looking at foundational ethical theories, economic theories of distribution, and various forms of corporate social responsibility. We will do this through various platforms: readings, lectures, group discussions, papers, case studies, midterms, and documentaries, as well as presentations.

Student Learning Objectives

This heading must read exactly as shown above, "Student Learning Objectives." Please do not edit it.

Bus/JS/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. In keeping with those objectives, upon successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

1. 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; these issues will be addressed through various case study examinations.
2. Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;
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 U.S.; and
4. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in the U.S.

Required Texts/Readings

ALL READING MATERIAL WILL BE POSTED ON CANVAS, CHECK SYLLABUS CALENDAR FOR TITLES AND DUE DATES OF READINGS!!!

Course content will be posted under Files on Canvas. Ethics Course-Reader (1) doc. is the text that will provide the theoretical background for the course. All of the case studies will be available on canvas as well.

All readings and materials will be posted and available on Canvas in the modules section.

Technology Requirements

Access to a computer with internet connection.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Grade Distribution:

1. Quizzes (10 quizzes/10 points each)	100 points	20% of grade
2. First Paper	100	20%
3. Participation/Group Projects (10/10 point)	100	20%
4. Midterm	100	20%
5. Final Paper	<u>100</u>	<u>20%</u>

500 points 100%

Overall Grade by Percentage

- 93 and above is an A
- 92.9 to 90 is an A-
- 89.9 to 87 is a B+
- 86.9 to 83 is a B
- 82.9 to 80 is a B-
- 79.9 to 77 is a C+

76.9 to 73 is a C
72.9 to 70 is a C-
69.9 to 67 is a D+
66.9 to 63 is a D
62.9 to 60 is a D-
59.9 and below is an F

1. **Quizzes:** The 10 quizzes will consist of multiple questions varying in type and point value; they will be made up of multiple choice, true and false, fill-in and short-answer questions. The quizzes will cover readings (**both those posted online and from the Text**), videos, lectures, and case studies, etc. You will get one attempt on each quiz and they will be timed, so be prepared for each quiz.
2. **PAPER:** Advanced GE courses require a minimum of 3000 words of writing, including in-class (discussion posts) and out-of-class assignments (research paper). In this course, you will write 2 papers. Follow these instructions for the paper:
 - choose an ethical theory and an ethical issue (preferably one that has been discussed in the class)
 - Perform an ethical evaluation of the issue that relies on the ethical theory.

+It is highly recommended that students who NEED help with English paper-writing make use of available resources.

3. **Case Studies/Weekly Group Work:** Although you will not be graded on attendance, you will be graded on participation. You will fulfill the participation portion of the grade by engaging in a weekly group activity; there are 70 people in this class, hence there will be 14 groups of 5 people (your groups have already been assigned to you). Each week your group will turn in a minimum of 1500 words (divided between 5 people, this amounts to 300 words per group member), wherein you will answer the following questions:

a. What is the ethical theory that you are *going to* employ for this particular case study? i.e. briefly explain the central components of the theory- this should not be hard, as you will have already attended my amazing lecture and examined all the course materials. Do not engage in an ethical analysis of the case study yet, this will be done in part c.

b. What is the ethical issue that you will be assessing? (A case study will probably have multiple ethical issues embedded with in it, you may choose the one that you feel best applies to the week's ethical theory). Do not engage in an ethical analysis yet, this will be done in part c.

c. In what ways does the ethical theory apply to the case study? The ethical issue you choose in part b should correspond to all of the elements of the ethical theory you described in part a. now, simply combine them together.

d. How would one of the other ethical theories addressed in the course respond to this issue? (for example, if you discussed utilitarianism in part a, explain the way in which a deontologist would respond. Who do you agree with and why?)

e. Offer a summary of parts a through d. Describe the overall sentiments of the group toward the ethical issue and the ethical theory. Did the group agree with the conclusions laid out in part c? Why or why not? Avoid platitudes and clichés like: "Everyone has their own opinion on what is right and wrong; so anyone could be right." This is a relativistic claim, and as ethicists we have no room for it in this course!

You will notice that some tasks are easier than others, for this reason no one should perform the same task two weeks in a row. For example, if you performed task a in week one, you should not perform task a in week two or three.

4. Midterm: The Midterm will be a culminating examination of all of the normative ethical theories covered in the course up to that point (if all goes according to plan, everything from weeks 1-6). It is worth 20% of the final grade.

Late work/Make up work will NOT be accepted. Nor will there be any retaking quizzes. You will get one attempt on each quiz and they will be timed, so be prepared for each quiz.

“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.”

Classroom Protocol

Students should always be respectful and collegiate to the instructor and classmates. During group discussion and in email, please conduct yourself in a mature, respectful, and collegiate manner. Students will be given warnings for inappropriate behavior (behavior that is not deemed appropriate, mature, respectful, and collegiate is up to the discretion of the instructor), should the behavior continue the appropriate measures will be taken up by the instructor (this could be removal from the class, point/grade deductions, etc.) and/or any other appropriate administrative personnel.

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 S16-15 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site. and SJSU current semester’s [Policies and Procedures \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.. 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.

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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading. However, 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. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated. The full policy language can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S15-12.pdf> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Classroom Protocol

As this class is conducted online, there is a false veil of anonymity. During group discussion and in email, please conduct yourself in a mature, respectful, and collegiate manner. Students will be given warnings for inappropriate behavior (behavior that is not deemed mature, respectful, and collegiate is up to the discretion of the instructor), should the behavior continue the appropriate measures will be taken up by the instructor (this could be removal from the class, point/grade deductions, etc.) and/or any other appropriate administrative personnel.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

[University Policy S14-7](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. states that 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.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external

site.. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes ([Late Drop Information](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.).

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., 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.”
- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- 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.
- “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** 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](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.**Student**

Technology Resources

- Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:
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- **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**
- Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. 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. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. website for more information.
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- [Academic Success Center](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall

- [Academic Technology Computer Center](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/hd/> on the 1st floor of Clark Hall
- [Associated Students Computer Services Center](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://as.sjsu.edu/ascs/> on the 2nd floor of the Student Union
- [Student Computing Services](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center>
- [Computers at the Martin Luther King Library](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. for public at large at <http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-king-library>
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college
- **SJSU Peer Connections**
- **SJSU Writing Center** The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. *The schedule and its content is subject to change with fair notice.*
- Course Schedule
- Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule
- **SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services**
- 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](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. 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.)
- Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. for more information.
- 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.

Week Date Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
This schedule is subject to change

- 1 1/25 Syllabus

- 2 1/30 Is Business Ethics Possible

 2/1 Is Business Ethics Possible? Module

- 3 2/6 Corporate Social Responsibility

 2/8 Corporate Social Responsibility Module

- 4 2/13 Utilitarianism

 2/15 Utilitarianism Module

- 5 2/20 Kantian Deontology

 2/22 Kantian Deontology Module

- 6 2/27 Virtue Ethics

 3/1 Virtue Ethics

- 7 3/6 Rawls

 3/8 Rawls Module

- 8 3/13 Review for Midterm

 3/15 Midterm

Week Date Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
This schedule is subject to change

9 3/20 Paper Review

Due 3/22 Paper #1 Due

10 3/27 SPRING BREAK

3/29 SPRING BREAK

11 4/3 Classical Political Economy

4/5 Classical Political Economy Module

12 4/10 Keynesian Economics

4/12 Keynesian Economics Module

13 4/17 Neoliberal Theories of Justice

4/19 Neoliberal Theories of Justice Module

14 4/24 Ethical Critiques of Capitalism- Marxism

4/26 Ethical Critiques of Capitalism- Marxism Module

15 5/1 Review for Final/paper

5/3 Review for Final/Paper

16 5/8 The Big Short

5/10 The Big Short

Week Date Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
This schedule is subject to change

Final Exam 5/16 **Final Exam**

Venue and Time

Final Exam— FINAL PAPER DUE

Wednesday, May 16	0715- 0930
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Good luck.