

San José State University Department of Philosophy
Phil/Bus 186, Professional and Business Ethics Sec 83
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: Online Course

Classroom: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>

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 Format

This is an online course. Students are required to have connection to the internet. Access to a personal computer is required to fully participate in the course activities.

Course Description and Goals

This is an online course. The course involves an interdisciplinary study of ethical and moral issues which 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.

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

GE Learning Outcomes

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;
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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Identify moral issues in relation to the professional and business world
2. Apply ethical decision making tools to complex ethical issues.
3. Assess possible ethical dilemmas that might occur from particular business decisions.
4. Students will be able to recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S. (SLO 4).

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Textbook: Fritz Allhoff & Anand J. Vaidya (2008). *Business in Ethical Focus: An Anthology*. Broadview Press. ISBN: 978-1-55111-661-7

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 (15 quizzes/10 points each) | 150 points | 30% of grade |
| 2. Final Paper (1 papers) | 100 | 20% |

3. Participation (case discussion/web posts)	150	30%
4. Final Exam (short answer)	<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 15 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. 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 term 1 paper. Follow these instructions for the paper:
 - Choose 5 DIFFERENT CASE STUDIES (they should be the case studies reviewed in class).
 - You are to analyze ALL 5 of the case studies using ONLY ONE of the following ethical theories: Kantian Deontology, Utilitarianism, Ethics of Care Theory, Virtue Ethics, Rawls theory, or Marxism.
 - Before you provide any case study analysis, provide a section that accurately describes the theory you will be using.
 - TIP: Avoid using phrases like: “In my opinion,” “I believe,” “Ethics is difficult and not certain, so it is hard to tell if this ethical theory is right or not.” This is an ETHICS course, so don’t do or say anything in your ETHICS PAPER that would undermine ethics as a discipline. Further, you are making an ARGUMENT in this paper, as such there is no room for “personal opinions” or “feelings.” Just turn those opinions and feelings into statements of fact.
 - This paper should be **no less than 8 full pages and no more than 10**. This paper should be well written, typed, doubled spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman (Or equivalent font). No cover sheet needed. Include proper citation.
 - Submit the paper on the day it is due no later than midnight (Pacific Time) on Canvas. The Due Date is listed below.

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

3. **Case Studies:** Although you will not be graded on attendance, you will be graded on participation: each week you are expected to **take a position on that week's case study and post it on the Discussion Board**. By the end of the semester you should have posted 15 times.

- Read the Case Study.
- Do corresponding to the topic for that week.
 - IF available, view the Case Study discussion Video posted (most will not have videos).
- Take an informed position on the Case Study and post that position on the Discussion Board (by "informed" I mean that you should use the language of the Textbook). Make an argument in your case study (the proper format for an argument will be covered in Lecture #1).
- The post should be between 10 to 15 sentences long.
- You will make one post of your own position and argument.
- These *will not* be graded; however, each post will count toward your final grade (each is roughly 2% of your overall grade, roughly 30% of the overall grade). I *will* monitor these carefully, and respond to some when it is necessary.

4. **The Final:** The final exam will be a culminating examination of all of the ethical theories covered in the course. It is worth 20% of the 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.

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

"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

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.

University Policies

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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.

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](http://as.sjsu.edu/ascsc/) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.at <http://as.sjsu.edu/ascsc/> on the 2nd floor of the Student Union
- [Student Computing Services](http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center) (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](http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) (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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) (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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) (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.

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>This schedule is subject to change</i>
1	Jan 25	Unit 1: What is Business Ethics?
		Watch: Lecture 1
Due	Feb 2	Read “Foundational Issues” pages 11-28 in the Text Book. Watch and read Case Study: “Hacking Into Harvard” on Canvas Quiz #1
2	Feb 3	Unit 2: Causes and Cues of Misconduct
		Read: Text, none View/Read: Lecture 2
Due	Feb 9	Watch Case Study: “Parable of the Sadhu” Participate: In-class case study discussion. Evaluation: Quiz 2
3	Feb 10	Unit 3: Utilitarianism
		Read: "Utilitarianism" Text, p. 53-62. View/Read: Lecture 3
Due	Feb 16	View: There is no video regarding the case study. Read Case Study 9: “Nestle and Advertising,” pg. 640. Participate: In-class case study discussion. Evaluation: Quiz 3
4	Feb 17	Unit 4: Kant

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>This schedule is subject to change</i>
		Read: "Kantian Business Ethics" Text, pages 29-34
		View/Read: Lecture 4
Due	Feb 23	View: cs_challenger.mp4
		Read: "Challenger" case study (PDF) in Canvas.
		Participate: online discussion
		Evaluation: Quiz 4
5	Feb 24	Unit 5: Rawls
		Read: "Theory of Justice" Text, pages 498-512
		View/Read: Lecture 5
Due	Mar 2	View: What is Universal Basic Income? (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.
		Participate: In-class case study discussion.
		Evaluation: Quiz 5
6	Mar 3	Unit 6: Virtue Ethics
		Read: "Aristotelian Virtue Ethics and the Recommendations of Morality" Text, pages 46-52
		View/Read: Lecture 6
		View: No Model case study discussion for this section
Due	Mar 9	Read: The Ethics of Bluffing: Oracle's Takeover of PeopleSoft page 460
		Participate: online discussion
		Evaluation: Quiz 6
7	Mar 10	Unit 7: Care Ethics

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>This schedule is subject to change</i>
		Read: "Caring as an Ethical Perspective" Text, 35-41
		View/Read: Lecture 7
Due	Mar 16	Read: "Actions Speak Louder than Words: Rebuilding Malden Mills" page 246
		Participate: online discussion
		Evaluation: Quiz 7
8	Mar17	Unit 8: Theories of Justice
		Read: "Anarchy State and Utopia" Text, 513-532
		View: Lecture 8
		View: Case Study
Due	Mar 23	Read: "One Nation Under Walmart," Canvas.
		Participate: online discussion
		Evaluation: Quiz 8
9	Mar 24	Unit 9: Capitalism
		Read: Ethical Critiques of Capitalism
		View: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9_LAaT4se4
Due	Mar 30	Watch Case Study: Richard Wolff on United Airlines
		Participate: In-class case study discussion.
		Evaluation: Quiz 9
10	Mar 31	Unit 10: Corporate Social Responsibility
Due	April 6	Read: "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits" and "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation" Text, pages 65-78

Week	Date	<p>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</p> <p><i>This schedule is subject to change</i></p> <p>View/Read: Lecture 10</p> <p>Case Study: http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/mylan-hit-with-racketeering-suit-over-big-price-hikes-of-epipen/ar-BBzhYpX?li=BBnbfcN&ocid=iehp (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.</p> <p>Participate: In-class case study discussion.</p> <p>Respond: online discussion</p> <p>Evaluation: Quiz 10</p>
11	April 7	<p>Unit 11: Global Issues in Business</p> <p>Read: "The Ethics of Risk in the Global Economy" Text, pp. 131-143.</p> <p>View/Read: Lecture 11</p> <p>*There is no Video Discussion for this Case Study</p>
Due	April 13	<p>Read: Case Study, "The Prison Industrial Complex in the Global Economy." oN Canvas</p> <p>Participate: online discussion</p> <p>Evaluation: Quiz 11</p>
12	April 14	<p>Unit 12: Consumers</p> <p>Read: "Advertising, Marketing, and the Consumer" Text, pp. 583-614</p> <p>View/Read: Lecture 12</p>
Due	April 20	<p>View: Nestle and Advertising.</p> <p>Participate: In-class case study discussion.</p> <p>Evaluation: Quiz 12</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<i>This schedule is subject to change</i>
13	April 21	Unit 13: Employment at Will
		Read: "Employment at Will." Text, pp. 255-266.
		View: Lecture 13
Due	April 26	View: *There is no video discussion for this week.
		Participate: Discussion board questions/posts, "Twitter has a Woman Problem" Pdf on Canvas. Posted in files.
		Evaluation: Quiz 13
15	April 27	Unit 14: Debt and Crisis
		Video: PBS Looks Into The Student Loan Problem (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.
		AND
		How student debt will cripple the American dream. Dusty Wunderlich TEDxUniversityofNevada (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.
Due	May 4	
		Participate: Discussion board questions/posts
		Case Study: "How American Universities Turned into Corporations." On Canvas
		Evaluation: Quiz 14
16	May 5	Unit 15: Discrimination
		Read: "What is Wrong With Reverse Discrimination?" 326-336
		View: Lecture 14
Due	May 12	Read: "Social Network NextDoor Moves to Block Racial Profiling" Located in Files on Canvas
		Participate: Discussion board questions/posts

Week Date Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
This schedule is subject to change
Evaluation: Quiz 15

Final
Exam

Final Exam

Venue and Time

Final Exam—I will open the exam and the final paper due date on

Thursday, May 17

at 12:01 am and close the assignment on Thursday May 17 at 11:59 pm.

Good luck.