

San Jose State University Course

Phil. 186 Business Ethics

Paul Bashaw instructor  
Sec. 08

Fall 2015  
1330-1445 Mon Wed

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Rm.BBC 203

Off Hrs 10:30-11:30 Tue Tr

### **Course Description**

**In this course, we will investigate a number of theoretical approaches to moral reasoning and the applications of such reasoning to issues in business. We will do this through a careful study of moral theory combined with a through consideration of a number of case studies. We will also study assorted theories of justice, economic theory, the idea of workers rights, issues of diversity and job discrimination, as well as issues in environmental ethics. The course is designed to challenge the student to reflect on values (other than money) and consider the ways in which our values are or are not realized in the modern workplace.**

**In addition to wrestling with a number of substantive issues concerning business and society, the course endeavors to improve the ability of students to analyze and assess moral issues and arguments and to think critically and independently. Of special concern are issues of equality and social justice both within the United States and globally.**

**PHIL186 meets the advanced G.E. Area S Self, Society and Equality in the U. S. The course is organized according to Area S course objectives (SLOs). In keeping with those objectives, upon successfully completing the course, the student 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 United States.**
- 3) Describe social actions by religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability and/or age groups leading to a greater equality and social justice in the United States**
- 4) Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial and ethnic groups in the United States.**

**In addition to the core objectives, students should:**

**Develop an understanding of important moral concepts and the foundations of contemporary moral theories.**

**Develop an ability to apply such concepts and theories to actual situations That arises in the workplace.**

Recognize the influence of social and economic institutions on professional ideals and business ethics.

**Be encouraged to reflect on their own value system(s) and consider how.**

Their values are or are not respected in the workplace.

**Required text:**

Moral Issues in Business—Shaw & Barry, 13 th edition.

**Course requirements:**

There will be two midterms and a final exam. . There will also be Ten (10) 1 to 2 page papers written of topics that I will designate at random throughout the course.

There will be reading assignments for each class. It is important to attend class and read the assigned material before class. On the tests you will be responsible for all information contained in the readings as well as in class lectures.

Active participation is important. Students are encouraged to ask questions, contribute ideas, and engage in discussion of the course material.

SLO #1	Paper on culture of late capitalism and its effect on race and gender.
SLO #2	Midterm questions on history of corporation and its influence of wealth distribution.
SLO #3	Homework Assignment: Short paper on Case 9.1: “Consenting to Sexual Harassment.”
SLO #4	Homework Assignment on faults of “ethical imperialism” and which policies constructively suit both “individualistic” and “collectivistic” cultures.

**Office and office hours:**

Location: Faculty Office Building 232, Office phone 924-4503 If these hours are not convenient for you, see me and I will make other arrangements.

**E-mails:**

I am happy to respond to E-mails that require short and to the point responses. Do not E-mail requests for me to explain complex concepts or repeat lectures that you may have missed. If I cannot respond in a paragraph, I won't respond at all

**Cell Phones:**

Please turn off your cell phone before entering the class room I am not happy when my lecture is interrupted by a ringing phone.

**Policy:**

Courses to meet Area R S and V of SJSU Studies must be taken from three different departments or distinct units.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is wrong. Never turn in another student's work as your own and never present material taken directly from a book, journal or the internet without putting quote marks around it and giving an endnote or footnote crediting the author. Students need to be especially careful about handing in material from the internet as if it was their own. Internet copying will be treated as much as plagiarism as book copying or journal copying.

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the university's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic work. Faculties are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be accessed from the SJSU< Judicial Affairs web site.

Persons with disabilities: 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 the Disability Resource Center. (924-6000 located in ADM 110) as soon as possible Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

**Western Ethical Views**

8-20 Introduction

8-25 8-27- Chapters 1 and 2 Ethical Relativism, Morality and the Law, Morality and Religion Arguments and logic

9-1 Chapter 2 Kant

9-3 9-8 )Utilitarianism Ethical Egoism Rand Handout

**Alternative ethical views.**

9-10 Buddhism

**Theories of Justice**

9-15 9-17 Chapter 3 Distributive Justice

9-22 -9 -24 chapter 3 (cont)

9-29 Review for midterm number one,

10-1 First midterm.



10-6 10-8 Chapter 4 The nature of Capitalism Handouts on Capitalism and Socialism

10-13 1015 Continue Chapter Four

### **World of Work.**

10-20 10-22 Chapter 5 Corporations

10-27 Review for Second Midterm

10-29 Second Midterm

11-3 11-5 Chapters 6 and 7

11-10 11-12 Chapters 8

11-17 11-19 Chapter nine

11-24 Chapter 10 11-26 Thanksgiving

12-1 12-3 Chapter 11

12-8 Review for final exam

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“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.”

### Grading Polocy

A=94-100

A-90-93

B+=87-89

B=84-86

B\_=80-83

C+=77-79

C=74-76

C\_=70-73

D+=67-69

D=64-66

D\_=60-63

F= Below 60