

San José State University

Business Ethics

Philosophy 186/Business3, Section 03, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Andrew Delunas

Office Location: FO 208

Email: andrew.delunas@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: 1PM to 2PM, MW, FO 208

Class Days/Time: MW, 4:30-5:45 PM

Classroom: MacQuarrie Hall 208

GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE: Area E

Course Description:

This course offers an interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the contexts of business occupations and professions. Students will consider major ethical theories, in addition to critiques of economic and criminal justice. The course focus is on issues of justice and equality in U.S. Case studies. GE Area: S Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. Note: All SJSU Studies courses require completion of the WST and upper division standing.

Course Goals:

Students will understand themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological entities that are able to formulate strategies for lifelong personal development. Courses shall address challenges confronting students who are entering the complex social system of the university so that students can employ available university resources to support academic and personal development.

GE Learning Outcomes:

GELO 1: Students will be able to 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.

GELO 2: Students will be able to describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.

GELO 3: Students will be able to 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).

GELO 4: Students will be able to recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

Course will include discussion of the expectations of workers vs. the reality of civil liberties in the workplace.

Course will include discussion of the civil rights movement and the problems of working women, including the changes in attitude before, during and after World War II

Course will include discussion of the labor movement in the U.S., especially Cesar Chavez and the UFW. We will discuss the concepts of protected classes under the law, affirmative action, and comparable worth

Course will include discussion of “unconscious bias” and ways that employers and employees can become aware of correct such biases.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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:

1. Comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for action.
2. Identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.
3. 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.
4. Distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
5. Know how well-managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Other Readings

I will provide all course readings via SJSU’s Canvas system; please check your student portal for the readings.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Quizzes:

There will be **three** (3) short quizzes (75% of the final grade) over the course of the semester to respond to.

Final Essay:

Select one of the essays/excerpts from the course readings and write a 7 to 10 page argumentative essay (25% of the final grade) in which you defend the author's argument from one or two criticisms, or provide your critique of the author's position. You may use external sources to strengthen your argument, *but they must be scholarly sources*: 'encyclopedic' websites (e.g., Wikipedia) do not count as scholarly sources. If you have any questions as to whether or not a source counts as a scholarly source, do not hesitate to ask me.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information (Required)

Quizzes (3): 75%

Final Essay: 25%

Determination of Grades:

A: (93-100%)

A-: (90-92%)

B+: (87-89%)

B: (83-86%)

B-: (80-82%)

C+: (77-79%)

C: (73-76%)

C-: (70-72%)

D: (64-69%)

F: (0-69%)

Grading Information for GE/100W :

“This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

- For 100W (Area Z):

“This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.”

Classroom Protocol:

A good philosophy class is centered not on a lecture and student regurgitation of information, but rather on dialog and debate in conjunction with a guided discussion designed to break down the

readings into something more manageable. With this in mind, the class will have a strong emphasis on in-class discussion, and therefore attendance, preparation (having actually read the assigned reading), and participation will all be essential to your experience in this course and will make up a considerable portion of your final grade. We will work frequently in small groups, and it will be imperative that we all work together to foster a trusting and comfortable environment for everyone. With that in mind, respect for one another is absolutely *essential* for this class. Feel free to disagree and debate with each other, but do so in a respectful manner. For example, try to refrain from interrupting others while they are talking, and remember to critique the *idea*—and not the *person*—you are debating. Coming to class and maintaining an open mind is also vital for good dialog to flourish.

Any disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated. Please feel free to email or speak to me if at any time you feel uncomfortable with the classroom environment. Similarly, I will speak to you if I perceive any problematic assumptions, biases, or prejudices that are making others uncomfortable.

University Policies (Required)

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/> **Make sure to review these policies and resources.**

Determination of Grades

A 95 to 100; A- 90 to 94; B+ 87 to 89; B 84 to 86; B- 80 to 83; C+ 77 to 79; C 74 to 76; C- 70 to 73; D 60 to 69; F 0 to 59

- Plus or minus grades will be used for semester grades but not on assignments
- There will be no extra credit assigned
- Late assignments will be accepted with explanation at the discretion of the instructor and may be subject to penalty.

Course Schedule (*subject to change with fair notice by in-class announcement.*) Date

W Aug 22
 M Aug 27
 W Aug 29
 M Sep 3
 W Sep 5
 M Sep 10

 W Sep 12

 M Sep 17

 W Sep 19
 M Sep 24

 W Sep 26

 M Oct 1

Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines

Introduction
 Chapter 1: The Nature of Morality
 Discussion: The *Enron* case
 Labor Day – No class
 Chapter 2: Normative Moral Theories
 Chapter 2: Normative Moral Theories – Egoism, Utilitarianism
 Chapter 2: Normative Moral Theories – Deontology
 Chapter 2: Normative Moral Theories – Common Sense Morality, Ethics of Care
 Discussion: “Made in the U.S.A, dumped...”
 Chapter 3: Justice and Economic Distribution – Utilitarianism, Libertarianism;
 Chapter 3: Justice and Economic Distribution – Egalitarianism; Review for First Exam
 First Exam
 Return Exams; Chapter 4: The Nature of

W Oct 3	Capitalism
M Oct 8	Chapter 5: Corporations
W Oct 10	To Be Announced
M Oct 15	Chapter 6: Consumers
W Oct 17	Compliance – Films and Discussion; Review
M Oct 22	for Second Exam
W Oct 24	Second Exam
M Oct 29	Return Second Exam; Chapter 7: The
W Oct 31	Environment
M Nov 5	The Environment continued
W Nov 7	Chapter 8: Workplace Issues I
M Nov 12	Chapter 9: Workplace Issues II
W Nov 14	Film: <i>The Fight in the Fields</i> – Part I
M Nov 19	Film: <i>The Fight in the Fields</i> – Part II
W Nov 21	Review for Third Exam
M Nov 26	Film: <i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i>
W Nov 28	Return third exam; Film: <i>The Trusteel Affair</i>
M Dec 3	No class/No office hours – Happy
W Dec 5	Thanksgiving
M Dec 10	Chapter 10: Moral Issues Facing Employees
W Nov 28	Film: <i>The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter</i>
M Dec 3	Chapter 11: Job Discrimination
W Dec 5	Review for fourth exam; discussion and
M Dec 10	questions for final paper
	Final Essay due.

