

**San Jose State University**

**Professional & Business Ethics**

**Philosophy 186:10;48625 and Business 186:10; 49861**

**FALL 2018**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Janet Giddings, M.A. Philosophy; M.A. Theology
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	1:45-2:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays And, by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, Noon-1:15 p.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	MH 324
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Upper Division Standing
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Area S: "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S."  "Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V with courses from departments other than the major department. Completion of, or co-registration in, a 100W course is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students."

## **Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

This is a hybrid course meaning that there are tests to take in Canvas; there are in-class tests as well. Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. are posted in the course **Canvas** site. Most communication will occur through Canvas; you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU as well.

**NOTE:** It is your responsibility to consider test dates; no make-up tests will be offered.

## **Course Description**

This 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.

## **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.

**Course Learning Objectives:** After successfully completing this course, you will be able to recognize, analyze, and articulate practical strategies to respond to ethical issues that arise in business. Specifically, you will be able to:

- a. comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning, apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for practical action.
- b. identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.
- c. 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.
- d. distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
- e. know how well-managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

Shaw, William, and Vincent Barry. *Moral Issues in Business*. 13<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*Prof Giddings must be informed if you use an ebook*

### **Other Readings**

There may be topical issues in the news and you may be asked to read something posted in our Canvas site for this course or view a short film. Stay informed.

## **Classroom Protocol**

The best way to achieve the optimum grade is to come to class for lecture, discussion and in-class workshops. Philosophical discussion includes argumentation, which means logical reasoning of justifications for your position on a topic. It 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 or more = consistent you lose ½ the grade;). If you are late 4 or more 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).

## In-class note-taking

- *Whether in class or writing reading notes at home (which you may be asked to turn in), writing notes into note paper is preferable and helps with memory.*
- See: <https://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>

## 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/](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 will interrupt the student to bring the discussion back on track. Questions on the assigned readings will be posed both to individuals and the class.*

*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: A*
- *In most class meetings, missing 1-3; demonstrate you have read if asked: B*
- *Not in class for 4-5 class meetings; demonstrate you have read when there: C*
- *Not in class 6 or more class meetings = 0 participation points*

*When a student is consistently out of class to participate it changes the class dynamic and especially for group work which is a lot of what we do in philosophy and applied ethics.*

**Note:** *any student who consistently leaves during class time will be docked points on the final grade. Leaving for long periods of time is unacceptable unless for reasons given permission from the instructor via AEC.*

## **Attendance and Participation SJSU Policy**

*...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.*

**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 is in Canvas.*

**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). Test booklet (blue book/green/yellow) required; an in-class test.*

**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. (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 is in Canvas*

- Late papers are NOT accepted in this course unless you have a documented medical emergency.
- No make-up tests unless documented medical emergency or religious holiday
- All work must be the work of the student enrolled in the course.
- All papers will follow MLA or APA formatting; **no cover sheet.**
- If hard copies required, unstapled papers will NOT be accepted.
- If you are registered with the AEC and wish to record lectures, please contact the professor asap. You must have written permission from the professor.
- Emailed papers will not be accepted. Papers are to be uploaded into Canvas by due date. Late papers will result in a reduced grade in fairness to those who follow and meet dates.
- Failure to complete 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.

## **Grading/Assessment**

96-100 A	83-86 B	68-73 C	53-57 D
92-95 A-	79-82 B-	64-67 C-	48-52 D-
87-91 B+	74-78 C+	58-63 D+	47 and below = Fail

## **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.”

## **University Policies**

### **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](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. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. 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 participation grade will be dropped 10 points for 3 tardy's and for each tardy after that it will be reduced 5 points. If you are tardy 5 or more you lose all participation points. 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! Instead, with respect, walk behind and find a seat.

**Use of laptops, phones or other devices is 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.

Cell phones OFF; No phone texting; no reading texts on your phone while in class. If you use any technology without permission, you will be asked to leave the room and you will miss participation activities. This infraction will drop participation grade by 5 points. A second infraction using your phone in class will erase your entire participation grade. This is rude behavior and students have complained to the professor that phone use in class is disruptive to group work or listening to lectures.

Any alteration of the schedule will be announced in class. An email may also be sent but not absolutely. It is the student responsibility to stay informed by coming to class and/or checking the Canvas site for this class. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus or course schedule; topical issues may arise that enhance or add to the course-learning dynamic and require change in the schedule.

**NOTE:** If you are allowed to bring notes for an "open note" test, the notes must be your own. Privacy: You may not record (audio or visual through any technology) anyone in the classroom including the instructor. **It is against SJSU rules** to record, (audio or visual), without the instructor's permission or permission from AEC.

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.

## Library/Resources

**Library Liaison:** Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu; Phone: 408-808-2034

**NO visual or auditory taping** in class unless you have explicit written permission from the AEC or the professor.

[University Policy S12-7](#), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

1. "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."
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. "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."

## Religious holiday observance

- 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 requests to be absent.



***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 all assignments. Changes will be stated in class.

**No textbook/ ebooks used in class on Tuesdays when we go over the chapter. Read prior to coming to class.**

On most Thursdays you may use your textbook for cases unless you have taken notes on each Case assignment. You will be asked to argue cases in writing while in class. Make certain you do your homework as **students will be called on**, in class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignment for the day</b>
TU Aug 21	Welcome; syllabus; classroom rules; Canvas use
TR Aug 23	In-class Case study
TU Aug 28	Case: 1.1; Dumped in Brazil; written argument in class
TR Aug 30	Begin textbook: Chapter 1: The Nature of Morality
TU Sep 4	Chapter Two: <i>Normative Theories of Ethics</i>
TR Sep 6	Case: 2.1; Hacking into Harvard
TU Sep 11	Chapter Three: <i>Justice and Economic Distribution</i>
TR Sep 13	Reading: by D.W. Haslett "Is Inheritance Justified?" page 143 In-class writing on this case
TU Sep 18	Chapter Four: <i>The Nature of Capitalism</i>
TR Sep 20	Case: 4.2; Licensing <b>Note:</b> View paper topics and read the Research Paper assignment at "Assignments" in Canvas

<p><b>TEST 1:</b> Chapters 1,2,3,4: in Canvas          Test opens Thursday 9/20 at 1:00 p.m. and closes Sunday 9/23 at 6:00 p.m.</p>
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TU Sep 25	Chapter Five: <i>Corporations</i>
TR Sep 27	Case: 5.6; Corporate Taxation

TU Oct 2	Chapter Six: <i>Consumers</i>
TR Oct 4	Write and Discuss: Your “consumption pattern.”

**In-class: submit choice of paper topic**

TU Oct 9	Chapter Seven: <i>The Environment</i>
TR Oct 11	Case 7.2; Poverty and Pollution

TU Oct 16	Chapter Eight: <i>The Workplace (1): Basic Issues</i>
	Case 10.2; Conflicting Perspectives on Conflicts of Interest
TR Oct 18	Review for next week’s in-class Test

TU Oct 23	<b>Test 2:</b> Chapters 5,6,7,8: <b>In-class</b> test; bring <b>Large</b> Test booklet; any color. The small test booklet will <b>NOT</b> be accepted.
TR Oct 25	Case 9.2

TU Oct 30	Chapter 9: <i>The Workplace (2): Today's Challenges</i>
TR Nov 1	Case 10.2

TU Nov 6	Discuss research Upload paper into Canvas Research paper due
TR Nov 8	Chapter 10: <i>Moral Choices Facing Employees</i>  What was the most important point of chapter to you?

TU Nov 13	Chapter 11: <i>Job Discrimination</i>
TR Nov 15	Case: 11.5: Facial Discrimination

TU Nov 20	In-class Case practice
TR Nov 22	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> : THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**ETHICS BOWL BEGINS!!**

TU Nov 27	Groups 1 & 2: Case TBA Groups 3 & 4: Case TBA
TR Nov 29	Groups 5 & 6: Case TBA Groups 7 & 8: Case TBA

TU Dec 4	Groups 9 & 10: Case TBA Groups 11 & 12: Case TBA
TR Dec 6	Winners of Ethics Bowl announced Review for Final Quiz

FINAL	<b>In Canvas:</b> Chapters 9,10,11 Opens: Friday, December 7 @ 1 p.m. Closes: Tuesday, December 14 @ Noon
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*All students **must be present** for each and every ETHICS BOWL presentation. Five (5) points reduced from participation grade if you do not attend each and every one of these presentations by groups. If you do not participate in your own group presentation you lose half (1/2) of the total of participation points (10).*

20: Participation

20: Test 1

20: Test 2

20: Research paper

20: Final: The final date is scheduled through the Administration. Prof Giddings is allowing students to begin earlier, as a courtesy. Once you start the test, you must finish.

There will be no 'restarts' given for computer problems or mistakes.