

**San José State University
Arts and Humanities/
Department of Philosophy
Phil/Bus 186, Professional and Business Ethics,
85 and 87, Fall, 2018**

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Trevor Gullion
Office Location:	Faculty Office Building 233
Telephone:	(408) 924-4524
Email:	Trevor.gullion@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	On Line
Class Days/Time:	On Line
Classroom:	Canvas
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing, or instructors consent
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area S, "Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S."

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

Online Course

This course follows the standard online format. As such, you will need to have regular access to a computer that has internet access. Students will also have to download readings and videos, write papers, and submit them as pdfs, access to such programs is required.

Course Description

Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the contexts of business occupations and professions. Major ethical theories, critique of economic and criminal justice. Focus is on issues of justice and equality in the 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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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)

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

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

NOTE: ALL course materials, even the readings from the text book, are provided in the modules section on Canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Access to a computer with a word processing program and the ability to download pdfs and videos.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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. 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 1 term 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, Virtue Ethics, Rawls theory, Nozick's 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. Group Presentations:

Presentation #1: Each unit/module will have a group presentation. The directions for each presentation are posted in the corresponding module. Each presentation will have slightly different, so you will have to pay close attention to these instruction. You have already been placed into these groups, you will only have to present one for the entire semester;

Presentation #2: The second presentation will allow each group to pick a topic that pertains to professional and business ethics, but has yet to be addressed. No two groups are allowed to address the same issue. The prompt for the second presentation is as follows:

- a. Introduction: What is the ethical issue that your group will be addressing? In what way does it pertain to business ethics? Why did your group choose this ethical issue? Which ethical theories will be applied? Which theory does the group think best analyzes the ethical issue?
- b. Case Study: Offer a brief description and summary of the case study that your group chose. Be sure to pin point the *specific* ethical issue (who is the perpetrator? Who is the victim? Of what were they a victim?) .
- c. Ethical Theory #1: Apply one of the ethical theories that have been discussed in the course. Research scholarly sources that have not been provided by the instructor. Be sure to cite your sources/information. Be sure to employ all of the relevant concepts that pertain to the ethical theory.

- d. Ethical Theory #2: Apply one of the ethical theories that have been discussed in the course. Research scholarly sources that have not been provided by the instructor. Be sure to cite your sources/information. Be sure to employ all of the relevant concepts that pertain to the ethical theory.
- e. Ethical Theory #3: Apply one of the ethical theories that have been discussed in the course. Research scholarly sources that have not been provided by the instructor. Be sure to cite your sources/information. Be sure to employ all of the relevant concepts that pertain to the ethical theory.

The possible topics for the second presentation is the following, (remember, no two groups can do the same topic; so you will need to get your topic approved by the instructor prior to the due date):

- insider trading
- misuse of corporate resources
- conflicts of interest
- nepotism
- bribery
- blind trust
- sexual harassment
- racial harassment
- lending and borrowing money

4. **The Final:** The final exam will be a culminating examination of all of the ethical theories covered in the course. It is worth 100 points.

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.”

“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.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final examination for this course comes in two forms: 1. A timed final examination at a the appropriate designated time and place (online) consisting of several questions in several different formats; these questions can be in the form of true and false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and short essay. 2. A final essay that is due on the last day of class.

Determination of Grades:

1. Quizzes (10 quizzes/10 points each)	100 points
2. Final Paper (1 papers)	100
3. Participation (weekly discussion/10 points)	100
4. Group Presentation (2X100points)	200
5. Final Exam	100
	600 points

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

Grading Information for upper division GE courses (R, S, V)

“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

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.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

<https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/consequences-of-plagiarism>

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/21	Review and complete the SJSU policy on plagiarism tutorial https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/consequences-of-plagiarism As well as the Course Syllabus
1	Due 08/27	Quiz on the Syllabus Discussion on Plagiarism
2	08/28	Unit 1: Is Business Ethics Possible? Watch: Video Lecture 1 Read: Foundational Issues Review Case Study: Hacking into Harvard
2	Due:	Group Presentation for Unit 1 09/07 Quiz and Discussion 09/09
4	09/10	Unit 2: Utilitarianism Read: "Utilitarianism" Text, p. 53-62. Meeler View/Read: Lecture 3 Case Study: "Nestle and Advertising
4	Due:	Group 2 Presentation for unit 2- 09/14 Quiz and discussion 09/16
5	09/17	Unit 3: Kant Read: "Kantian Business Ethics" Text, pages 29-34 View/Read: Lecture 4 Case Study: "Challenger"
5	Due:	Group 3 Presentation for unit 3- 9/21 Quiz and discussion 9/23
6	9/24	Unit 4: Virtue Ethics Read: "Aristotelian Virtue Ethics and the Recommendations of Morality" Text, pages 46-52 View/Read: Lecture 6 Case Study: "Oracle's Take Over of People Soft"
6	Due:	Group 4 Presentation for unit 4- 9/28 Quiz and discussion: 9/30
7	10/1	Unit 5: Rawls Read: "Theory of Justice" Text, pages 498-512 View/Read: Lecture 5 Case Study Video: What is Universal Basic Income?
7	Due:	Group 5 Presentation of unit 5- 10/5 Quiz and Discussion 10/7
8	10/8	Unit 6: Theories of Justice Read: Anarchy, State, and Utopia View: Lecture 8 Case Study: "One Nation Under Walmart"

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8		Group 6 presentation of unit 6-10/12 Quiz and discussion- 10/14
9	10/15	Unit 7: Ethical Critiques of Capitalism Read: Ethical Critiques of Capitalism View: Wolff and Harvey on the Charlie Rose Show Case Study: Working Conditions Amazon
9		Group 7 presentation of unit 7- 10/19 Quiz and discussion-10/21
10	10/22	Unit 8: corporate Social Responsibility Read: "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits" and "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation" Text, pages 65-78 Case Study: Case Study: http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/mylan-hit-with-racketeering-suit-over-big-price-hikes-of-epipen/ar-BBzhYpX?li=BBnbfN&ocid=iehp (Links to an external site.) View/Read: Lecture 10
10		Group 8 presentation of unit 8- 10/26 Quiz and discussion- 10/28
11	10/29	Unit 9: Employment at Will (EAW) Read: "Employment at Will." Text, pp. 255-266. View: Lecture 13 Case Study: Twitter has a Woman Problem
11		Group 9 presentation of unit 9- 11/2 Quiz and discussion- 11/4
12	11/5	Unit 10: Discrimination Read: "What is Wrong With Reverse Discrimination?" 326-336 View: Lecture 14 Case Study: "Social Network NextDoor Moves to Block Racial Profiling"
12		Discussion and Quiz 11/11
13	11/12	Paper Topic Approval Review Online Writing Labs Exercises
13	11/18	Discussion Due: Which Ethical Theory Will You Use? Which Case Studies?
14	11/19	Thanks Giving Break
14	11/25	Try a Vegan Turkey!!!
15	11/26	Group Presentation Posts
15	12/7	Group Presentation #2
16		Dead Week- Work on Your paper and Study for the Final
Final Exam	12/19	Final Exam 2 hour and 15 minute time limit. Open at 8 am and closes at 11:59pm Final Paper submission. Open 8 am and closes at 11:59 pm