

**San José State University Philosophy Department
Philosophy 186, Professional and Business Ethics**

Spring 2013

Instructor:	Rita Manning
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Office hours:	TR 1-3, and by appointment
Class days/time:	TR, 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	BBC 004
Prerequisites:	Completion of core GE, WST, and upper division standing.
GE/SJSU Studies Category	Area S

Course Description: Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the contexts and as a result of business and the professions. Major ethical theories, critique of economic justice, and decision-making techniques. Focus is on issues of justice and equality in the U.S. Case studies.

Course SLOs: At the successful completion of this course, you will have

- Comprehend the major methods of ethical reasoning (e.g., utilitarianism, rights, justice, and virtue), apply these methods to specific business situations, and draw conclusions for action.
- Identify the major stakeholders of business and understand how they may be affected by ethical or unethical behavior.
- Demonstrate familiarity with various ethical issues that arise in business, e.g., insider trading, misuse of corporate resources, conflicts of interest, and sexual and racial harassment.
- Distinguish among societal, organizational, and individual-level causes of unethical behavior in business.
- Know how well-managed companies structure their ethics and compliance function.

GE SLOs: Advanced GE, Area S. Upon successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

- a) Describe how religions, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age identity are shaped by cultural and social influences in contexts of equality and inequality;
- b) Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.;
- c) 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,

- d) Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in the U.S.

Required texts: Manning and Stroud, *Practical Ethics* (PE); Shaw, *Moral Issues in Business* (MB) OR Shaw, *Business Ethics* (BE). (The only difference between MB and BE are that MB has additional essays. In the schedule, I refer to MB, but you will find the same chapters in BE.) Katharina Wulf, *Ethics and Compliance Programs in Multinational Organizations* (electronic version in SJSU library), p 263-353

Requirements: Two midterms, final, class journal and consistent participation are required.

Exams: There will be two midterms and a final, each of which will consist of an objective section and one or more essay questions.

Journal Assignments: Class journal assignments are on the syllabus, and will occasionally be assigned in class. These assignments must be typed and turned in at the beginning of class on the date listed on syllabus (unless they are assigned in class.) You will have approximately 15 journal assignments averaging 1-2 pages each.

Class Participation: This class will be roughly 50% lecture and 50% discussion/activity. It is very important for you to come to class prepared to discuss the material and participate in the discussion/activity. You will most often be discussing your journals in small groups and reporting to the entire class. You will also turn in a written version of your small group discussion.

Grading: There are 100 points available. The journals are worth 20 points. Participation is worth 10 points. The midterms are worth 20 points each and the final is worth 30 points.

Schedule

1/24: Introduction. Take the plagiarism tutorial.
<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm>

Week 1, 1/29, Discuss plagiarism quiz, *Journal Assignment: Describe a moral situation that you faced in your own life. What did you do, and how did you decide what to do?*

1/31, Topic: Leadership and Integrity
PE Ch 2

Week 2, 2/5, Topic: How misconduct happens

Reading: PE: Ch.1, Wulf, 263-298,
2/7, Case Discussion: Cheating at SJSU

Journal Assignment: Do a brief risk assessment using the model described by Wulf of cheating at SJSU.

Week 3, 2/12 Topic: Corporations and Capitalism

Reading: MB Ch. 4 and 5, Adam Smith (website)

2/14, Case Discussion, B corporation (link on website). *Journal Assignment: Given the nature of both capitalism and for profit corporations, what are some of the obstacles to for profits focusing on social responsibility? How does a B corporation deal with these obstacles?*

Western Moral Concepts

Week 4, 2/19, Topic: Utilitarianism

Reading: PE pp. 39-49; MB “Utilitarianism”, “Utilitarianism once more” (Ch. 2)

2/21, Case Discussion: “Hacking into Harvard” (MB, Ch. 2)

Journal Assignment: Analyze this article using the Utilitarian perspective.

Week 5, 2/26, Topic: Rights and Respect for Persons

Reading: PE pp. 49-59, MB “Kant’s Ethics,” “Other Nonconsequentialist Perspectives” (Ch. 2)

2/28, **First Midterm**

Week 6, 3/5, Case Discussion: “Blood for Sale” (MB, Ch. 2)

Journal Assignment: Analyze this issue using the Moral Rights perspective

Confucian Ethics and Feminist Ethics

3/7, Topic: Virtue, Confucianism

Reading: PE pp. 59-66, 90-95

Week 7, 3/12, Topic: Caring, Feminist Critique

Reading: PE pp. 69-80, 105-6

3/14, Case Discussion: MB, Protecting the unborn at work (Ch. 9)

Journal Assignment: Discuss the case using the Care perspective, the feminist critique, and any other perspective we’ve studied so far.

Week 8, 3/19, Topic: Professional Codes

Reading: PE pp. 84-86

Journal Assignment: Provide a copy of a professional or organizational code of ethics. (Use link on website to find codes) Discuss the overall code or a section of the code using one of the perspectives we’ve talked about.

3/21, Film: *The Trueteel Affair*

Journal Assignment: Describe Williams’ behavior in terms of his professional code and the virtue perspective. What can his professional organization do to minimize the risk of similar behavior?

Justice and Equality

Week 9, 4/2, Topic: The Just Society

Reading: PE pp. 81-84,

4/4, **Second Midterm**

Week 10, 4/9, Topic: Justice and Economic Distribution, PE, Ch. 6; MB Ch. 3

4/11, Case Discussion: Taxation. Reading: Schultz and Buffett (on website)
Journal Assignment: Discuss Schultz' and Buffett's ideas on taxation, from the perspective of a just society.

The World of Work

Week 11, 4/16, Topic: Social Identity in the Workplace, Equality and Work
Reading: PE pp. 169-191

4/18, *Journal Assignment: Describe the worst job you ever had. What was it about the job that made it so bad? Now describe your dream job. What makes this one so good?*

Week 12, 4/23 Guest Speaker, Rich Okumoto, 4/23 at 7 PM in King Library 225 NO REGULAR CLASS

4/25 Topic: Worker Entitlements, Reading: MB, Ch. 8, Film: *Dying for a Job* (XS 1134)
Journal Assignment: Do you think workers are entitled to form a union? Defend your answer using the films, and the moral perspectives (including justice) we've talked about so far. (Due 4/30)

Diversity in the Workplace

Week 13, 4/30, Topic: Discrimination

Reading: PE pp. 192-206; MB, Ch. 11

5/2 Case Discussion: *Morally Bankrupt* (in PE)

Journal Assignment: Describe all the various cases of discrimination in this case and devise a comprehensive strategy to deal with them.

Compliance

Week 14, 5/7 Topic: Creating Compliance: internal strategies

Reading: Wulf 299-353

5/9, Case Discussion: *Justice Will be Served* (on website): workers creating compliance

Journal Assignment: Describe how diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic groups are working together to solve common problems in this campaign. Do you think their collaboration is helping or hurting their common cause?"

Week 15, 5/14 Topic: Global Ethics and compliance: legal strategies

Reading: MB, Bribes and Kickbacks (Ch. 10)

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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."

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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors."

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

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 DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

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.