

I do not feel obligated to believe that the same God who endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect had intended for us to forgo their use...

- Galileo Galilee (1564 – 1642)

• **Philosophy 103 – Business Ethics**

Section 04

Spring 2020 (January 24th – May 20th)

M/W/F 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Room: Mendocino Hall 3013

Satisfies General Education Area D (see course objectives/requirements below)

Instructor: J. P. Carboni

E-mail: Joshua.carboni@csus.edu

Mailbox: Philosophy Department Office: Mendocino Hall Room 3000

Office Hours: **Tuesday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Friday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Online: Please use Zoom link in CANVAS modules. Note: If and “when” you attend office hours, you must have your camera turned on.

Course Description

Course Catalogue: Analytical treatment of controversial moral issues which emerge in the business world, e.g., affirmative action, corporate responsibility, the global economy, industry and environmental damage, social effects of advertising, the computer threat to personal privacy, ownership of computer programs. Discussion will focus on basic moral principles and concepts relevant to these issues.

• **Required Textbook:**

Text: Ciulla, Joanne B., Clancy Martin and Robert C. Solomon. (2018).

***Honest Work: a business ethics reader, 4th Edition.* Oxford University**

Press: New York City. ISBN: 978-0-19-049768

• **Course Learning Objectives for Phil 103:**

Students will be able to:

- 1) To understand and evaluate the moral issues raised by current and projected future business practices and current and projected future technology.
- 2) To understand some of the major moral theories as they pertain to these issues.
- 3) To develop the ability to apply moral concepts to attempt to resolve these issues, and to recognize the relationship between morality and social consequences.
- 4) To improve the capacity to use moral concepts to reason regarding concrete situations and cases involving the diversity of race, class, gender, and other aspects of human society.

• **Area D Learning Outcomes – The Individual and Society:**

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate ethical and social values in their historical and cultural contexts.
2. Explain and apply the principles and methods of academic disciplines to the study of social and individual behavior.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of human diversity in human society, for example, race, ethnicity, class, age, ability/disability, sexual identity, gender and gender expression.
4. Explain and critically examine social dynamics and issues in their historical and cultural contexts.

Links to the above Area D Learning Outcomes can be found at the following links:

<https://www.csus.edu/undergraduate-studies/general-education/ge-learning-outcomes.html>

These learning objectives will be met through a variety of practical assessments including quizzes, group work, essay writing and verbal communication (class/group participation).

• **Student Standards of Conduct:**

Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated in this class. All those who engage in these activities will receive a zero on the associated assignment. In addition, all incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the department chair and to the Judicial Officer in the Office of Student Affairs. It is your responsibility to both know and adhere to Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy. This policy can be found at the following address:

<https://www.csus.edu/umanual/student/stu-100.htm>

If you wish for more assistance/advice on the issue of plagiarism, please see the following CSUS library link <http://csus.libguides.com/home> (information on citing and researching)

In-Class Participation: Purposely “obstructing” the viewpoint of another student in the classroom during classroom discussions is prohibited. This class will involve many discussions concerning the material assigned for homework and the material presented during the classroom lectures. This being a philosophy course, many of these discussions *may* challenge certain beliefs that you hold. Open dialog and proper methods of argumentation (which will be discussed) are not only expected but required for this class.

Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend each class session. This class will involve many in-class discussions and a significant amount of in-class, graded and ungraded work. Students are expected to have completed the readings and participate in all in-class discussions.

Cell Phones and Computers: Please set your phone to vibrate before class. Cell phones are not to be used in class for any reason. If you must take a call (which I discourage unless an emergency) please step outside before you answer. No texting or general internet use will be allowed in class.

Email Correspondence: Monday through Friday I check my Sac State *and* Gmail accounts at least once per day (usually in the afternoon/evening). If I do not respond to an email that you have sent within one business day, please feel free to resend the email. In order to ensure a prompt reply, all emails that you send must be formatted according to the following link:

<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/internal/g6-how-to-correspond-with-your-professor.pdf>

NOTE: All emails *not formatted* according to the above link will not be answered promptly.

• **Disability Accommodations:**

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Information can be found at the following link: <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/centers-programs/services-students-disabilities/>. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours *before* the end of the third week of the semester.

Special Note: All instructors employed by CSU, Sacramento are ‘mandatory reporters’ of suspected child abuse or neglect according to the *California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*. As such, I am bound to the requirements established by CSU Executive Order 1083 which can be found at the following link:

<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/10927154/latest/>

• **Evaluation/Homework Assignments:**

In-Class Assignments: There will be a number of randomly assigned, short in-class assignments throughout the term. These assignments will be worth a total of 5 – 10 points each (you will be informed of the specific point value when each assignment is given). At the end of the term, a total of 50 points will be possible. **There are no make-ups on missed in-class work. If you miss an assignment, you miss an assignment.**

Quizzes: As outlined on the weekly course breakdown below, there will be **two** types of quizzes in this class.

- (1) **Reading Quizzes:** Prior to each *new section* lecture/new topic, there will be a quiz to be completed prior to the lecture on that reading/subject (see weekly breakdown below for details). These quizzes must be completed in CANVAS and must be completed prior to the scheduled class time. Each Reading Quiz will be made available by 11:59 PM on the date stated in the weekly breakdown and will be available until that scheduled class begins. **No make-ups will be given for missing a quiz.** It is your responsibility to know and follow the schedule. It can be confusing at first, so if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. These quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it.
- (2) **Lecture Quizzes:** This course is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As illustrated in the weekly breakdown below, each class session will involve a lecture/class discussion on the material assigned for that class. At the end of each week (after Friday's lecture each week) students will be required to complete a short quiz on the lecture material provided. This quiz will be available in CANVAS on Friday no later than 11:59 PM and must be completed no later than 9 AM on Monday. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. Like each Reading Quiz, the Lecture Quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each Lecture quiz will be worth 10 Points.

Please Note: There will be no make-up quizzes if you miss a quiz (either type). To do well on these quizzes and thus to do well in the class, you should make sure to attend class, to actively participate in the lecture, and to complete the assigned readings. If you are confused in any way about the detailed quiz schedule, it is your responsibility to come and speak to me during my office hours or before/after class. **Also Note:** If you have any issues during the quiz (like, for example, a system freeze) please do not email me about the issue. Please speak to me either in my office hours or after *the next* class.

Writing Assignments:

There will be two writing assignments in this class. For each assignment, you will be provided with assignment topics, structural details, and a grading rubric two weeks prior to the due date for each essay. Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. No emailed essays or electronically submitted essays will be accepted. Late essays will be docked 5 points for every day that they are late (excluding Saturday and Sunday). If your essay is late, you must arrange a method to hand in the essay with me after the class that the essays are due.

Essay #1 Prompt: Friday 2/25
Essay # 2 Prompt: Monday 4/18

Due: Friday, 3/11
Due: Monday, 5/9



Basic Essay Guidelines:

Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines posted in both “Writing Guidelines” & “How to Analyze a Philosophical Essay” that are located on the CSUS Department of Philosophy webpage. This information will be reviewed in class on *Monday of Week 5* (prior to the first essay being due). Below is the link to the webpage:

<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/internal/g3-department-of-philosophy-writing-guidelines1.pdf>

Below is a link to the department’s outline of proper philosophic analysis:

Philosophical Analysis: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/internal/g5-how-to-analyze-a-philosophical-essay.pdf>

All essays will be graded based on the department grading guidelines. Below is a link to the Department Grading Guidelines:

Grading Standards: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/grading-standards.html>

Examinations: There will be two examinations in this class (a midterm and a final exam). There will be a comprehensive review held before each exam. There will be no make-ups on exams - except with “extraordinary” circumstances - so schedule outside activities accordingly. Note: Extraordinary circumstances do not include *personal* athletic activities, vacations, car not starting, **bought an early plane ticket home/for family vacation**, just not feeling like it, etc. A doctor’s note (or something similar) will be required to schedule a make-up exam.

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, 3/16

Final Exam: Wednesday, 5/18 (8 AM – 10 AM)

Extra Credit: There will be one extra credit assignment offered in the Spring 2022 term. This assignment, which will be announced during Week 2, will involve attending a CSUS Philosophy Speaker Series Event or another Speaker Event sponsored by the Ethics Center (see link below for details). Detailed instructions will be provided for this assignment, including specific event details, during the second week of class. Below is the link to the Ethics Center homepage, which will list all upcoming speaker dates once announced:

Center for Practical and Professional Ethics:

<https://www.csus.edu/center/practical-professional-ethics/#Center%20for%20Practical%20and%20Professional%20Ethics>

• **Grading Scale:**

All essays will be graded based upon an 80-point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (75 - 80 pts)	A- Very Good (72 - 74 pts)
B+ Above Satisfactory (68.5 - 71 pts)	B Satisfactory (67 - 68 pts)
B- Below Satisfactory (64 - 67 pts)	C+ Above Average (61 - 63 pts)
C Average (58 - 60 pts)	C- Below Average (56 - 57 pts)
D+ Poor High (53 - 55.5 pts)	D Poor Low (48 - 52 pts)
F Unacceptable (47 and lower pts)	

All Examinations will be graded based on a 100-Point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (100 - 95 pts)	A- Very Good (94 - 90 pts)
B+ Above Satisfactory (89 - 86 pts)	B Satisfactory (83 - 85 pts)
B- Below Satisfactory (82 - 80 pts)	C+ Above Average (79 - 76 pts)
C Average (75 - 73 pts)	C- Below Average (72 - 70 pts)
D+ Poor High (69 - 66 pts)	D Poor Low (65 - 60 pts)
F Unacceptable (59 and lower pts)	

• **Total Point Breakdown:**

Reading Quizzes (x18 = 180 pts) – 170 after 1 dropped quiz

Lecture Quizzes (x13 = 130 pts) – 120 after 1 dropped quiz

Essay #1: 80 possible pts

Essay #2: 80 possible pts

Midterm Examination: 100 possible pts

Final Examination: 100 possible pts

In Class Work: 50 possible points

Total Points Possible 720

Reading/Assignment Schedule

Note: (1) All **Reading Quizzes** will be posted to CANVAS no later than 11:59 PM on the date stated in the weekly breakdown below. All Reading Quizzes must be completed no later than 10 minutes prior to the class listed for each quiz.

(2) All **Lecture Quizzes** will be posted to CANVAS after the final class of the week (usually Friday) no later than 11:59 PM.

(3) NOTE: If any particular quiz fails to be posted on or before 11:59 PM on the date indicated, you will receive full credit on that quiz.

(4) NOTE: **I have added in bold type next to each day which quizzes are due that day. For example, - RQ1 & LQ2. As before, to see the specific due date and posting date for each quiz, see the breakdown next to “Due” for each week.**

Note: Weeks 1 and 2 will be held as synchronous online courses. Please use the link posted in CANVAS to access the class.

Week 1: (1/24 – 1/28)

Monday: Course Introduction – No reading due
Wed/Fri: Are we entitled to our opinions? Reading posted to CANAVS
- **RQ1 Due before start of class**

**Due: Wednesday 1/26: Reading Quiz #1 (Posted on Wednesday 1/24)
Monday 1/31: Lecture Quiz #1 (Posted on Friday 1/28)**

Week 2: (1/31 – 2/4)

Monday: *Readings: Readings:* (1) “Three Questions for Thinking About Ethics” (xxiii) & Robert Audi - “Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations” (xxiii) – A discussion of Mill, Kant, and Aristotle - **RQ2 & LQ1**
Wednesday: Continued Discussion from Monday (No New Reading)
Friday: *Reading:* Plato – “Ring of Gyges” (xxvii)

**Due: Monday 1/31: Reading Quiz #2 (Posted Friday 1/28)
Friday 2/4: In-Class Assignment #1 (Will be provided in class)
Monday 2/7: Lecture Quiz #2 (Posted Friday 2/4)**

Note: Moving forwards, the class will meet in-person in the assigned classroom

Week 3: (2/7 – 2/11)

Monday: *Reading:* Norman E. Bowie – “Respecting the Humanity in a Person” (4) & *Boxes:* “W.D. Ross on Prima Facie Duties” (6) & “The Most Common Types of Unethical Behavior at Work” (17) – **LQ2**
Wednesday: *Reading:* Jerry Goodstein and Kenneth D. Butterfield – “Restorative Justice and the Aftermath of Unethical Behavior” (15) & Harvard Law Review – “Facial Discrimination” (20) - **RQ3**
Friday: *Reading:* Case 1.3 (28), 1.4 (29) and “Box: Sexual Harassment Guidelines” (30)

**Due: Monday 2/7: LQ2 (Posted 2/4)
Wednesday 2/9: Reading Quiz #3 (Posted Monday 2/7)
Friday 2/11: In-Class Assignment #2
Monday 2/14: Lecture Quiz #3 (Posted Friday 2/11)**

Week 4: (2/14 – 2/18)

- Monday: *Reading:* “Box: Aristotle, Kant and Mill on Honesty” (35) & Sissela Bok – “Defining Secrecy—Some Crucial Distinctions” (42) & Albert Carr – “Is Business Bluffing Ethical?” (36) – **LQ3 & RQ4**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* Harry G. Frankfurt – “On Bullshit” (45) & Niccolo Machiavelli – “The Prince” (47) – **RQ5**
- Friday: *Reading:* Case 2.2 and Case 2.3

Due: Monday 2/14: Lecture Quiz #3 (Posted Friday 2/11)

Monday 2/14: Reading Quiz #4 on Bok and Carr (Posted Friday 2/11)

Wednesday 2/16: Reading Quiz #5 on Frankfurt (Posted Monday 2/14)

Friday 2/14: In-Class Assignment #3

Monday 2/21: Lecture Quiz #4 (Posted Friday 2/18)

Week 5: (2/21 – 2/25)

- Monday: *Reading:* Edward J. Balleisen – “On Fraud” (74) & “Box: Learning to Cheat” (84) & “Box: Ethical Decision Making” (87) – **LQ4 & RQ6**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* Ed Cohen – “Arthur Anderson Refugees Reflect on What went Wrong” (90) & Paul B. Farrell – “Derivatives, the New “Ticking Time Bomb”” (113)
- Friday: *Reading:* Cases 3.4 (132) and 3.5 (133)

Due: Monday 2/21: Reading Quiz #6 (Posted 2/18)

Friday 2/21: In-Class Assignment #4

Monday 2/28: Lecture Quiz #5 (Posted Friday 2/25)

Provided: Friday 2/25 - Essay Prompt #1

Week 6: (2/28 – 3/4)

- Monday: *Reading:* “Box: Plato and Aristotle on Justice” (138) & Adam Smith – “On Human Exchange and Human Difference” (140) – **LQ5 & RQ7**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* John Rawls – “Justice as Fairness” (145) - **RQ8**
- Friday: *Reading:* Robert Nozick – “Anarchy, State, and Utopia” (149) (lecture includes a short summary of John Locke’s Political Philosophy)

Due: Monday 2/28: LQ5 (Posted 2/25)

Monday 2/28: Reading Quiz #7 (Posted Friday 2/25)

Wednesday 3/2: Reading Quiz #8 (Posted Monday 2/28)

Monday 3/7: Lecture Quiz #6 (Posted Friday 3/4)

Week 7: (3/7 – 3/11)

- Monday: *Reading:* Irving Kristol – “A Capitalist Conception of Justice” (152) & “Box: Annie Lowrey, “Occupy Wall Street” (156) – **LQ6 & RQ9**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* Friedrich von Hayek – “Justice Ruins the Market” (158) & “Comparable Worth: A Matter of Simple Justice” (161) – **RQ10**
- Friday: *Reading:* Cases 4.1 (166) and 4.2 (167)

Due: Monday 3/7: LQ6 (Posted 3/4)

Monday 3/7: Reading Quiz # 9 on Irving Kristol (Posted 3/4)

Wednesday 3/9: Reading Quiz #10 on von Hayek (Posted Monday 3/7)

Friday 3/11: Essay #1 is Due

Friday 3/11: In-Class Assignment #5

Monday 3/14: Lecture Quiz #7 (Posted 3/11)



Provided: Friday 3/11 - Midterm Study Guide

Week 8: (3/14 – 3/18)

Monday: *Midterm Exam Review - LQ7*

Wednesday: **Midterm Exam – See Prompt for Details Concerning the Exam**

Friday: *Exam Review & In Class Assignment*

Due: Monday 3/14: LQ7 (Posted 3/11)

No additional quizzes during the exam week period

Week 9: (3/21 – 3/25) – SPRING BREAK – No Classes Held

Week 10: (3/28 – 4/1)

Monday: *Reading:* Milton Friedman – “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits” (174) – **RQ11**

Wednesday: *Reading:* Christopher D. Stone – “Why Shouldn’t Corporations Be Socially Responsible” (179) & Peter French – “Corporate Moral Agency” (183)

Friday: *Reading:* Paul G. Argenti – “Corporate Ethics in the Era of Millennials” (198) & Case 5.4 (204) & Case 5.5 (206)

Due: Monday 3/28: Reading Quiz #11 on Milton and Stone (Posted Friday 3/18)

Friday 4/1: In-Class Assignment #6

Week 11: (4/4 – 4/8)

- Monday: *Reading:* “Box: Locke on Property” (212) and Reading on Locke and Property posted to CANVAS – **LQ8**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* “Box: Foucault and the Panopticon” (216) and Reading Posted to CANVAS on FOUCAULT – **RQ12**
- Friday: *Reading:* Elizabeth A. Buchanan – “Information Ethics in a Worldwide Context” (217)

Due: Monday 4/4: LQ8 (Posted 4/1)

Wednesday 4/6: Reading Quiz #12 on Foucault Reading Posted to Canvas (Posted 4/4)

Monday 4/11: Lecture Quiz #9 (Posted 4/8)

Week 12: (4/11 – 4/15)

- Monday: *Reading:* Clive Thompson – “The Next Civil Rights Battle Will Be Over the Mind” (231) & Bill Joy – “Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us” (233) – **LQ 9 & RQ13**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* Case 6.1 (237) & Case 6.4 (239)
- Friday: *Reading:* John Kenneth Galbraith – “The Dependence Effect” (251) & Friedrich von Hayek – “The Non-Sequitur of the ‘Dependence Effect’” (256) – **RQ14**

Due: Monday 4/11: LQ9 (Posted 4/8)

Monday 4/11: Reading Quiz #13 on Thompson (Posted 4/8)

Friday 4/15: Reading Quiz #14 on Hayek (Posted 4/13)

Monday 4/13: Lecture Quiz #10 (Posted 4/15)

Week 13: (4/18 – 4/22) – *I Mean ... What Made Humpty Dumpty Think that Sitting Up On That Wall Was a God Idea?*

- Monday: *Reading:* Peter Huber – “Liability” (278) – **LQ10**
- Wednesday: *Reading:* Warren E. Burger – “Too Many Lawyers, Too Many Suits” (291) and Dowie – “Pinto Madness” (293)
- Friday: *Reading:* Adam Thierer – “When the Trail Lawyers Come for the Robot Cars” (303) & Case 8.1 (305)

Due: Monday 4/18: LQ10 (Posted 4/15)

Friday 4/22: In-Class Assignment #7

Monday 4/25: Lecture Quiz #11 (Posted 4/22)

Provided: Monday 4/18 Essay Prompt #2

Week 14: (4/25 – 4/29): *How to Live in a Small World, Should Corporations Care About the Environment, and How to Be an Effective Leader*

Monday: *Reading:* Anthony Kwame Appiah – “Global Villages” (340) & Case 10.4 (376) - **LQ11 & RQ15**

Wednesday: *Reading:* Aldo Leopold – “The Land Ethic” (386) & Case 11.3 (425) & Case 11.5 (428) – **RQ16**

Friday: *Reading:* Niccolo Machiavelli – “Is It Better To Be Loved Than Feared?” (433)

Due: Monday 4/25: LQ 11 (Posted 4/22)

Monday 4/25: Reading Quiz #15 (Posted on Friday 4/22)

Wednesday 4/27: Reading Quiz #16 (Posted on Monday 4/25)

Friday 4/29: In-Class Assignment #8

Monday 5/2: Lecture Quiz #12 (Posted on Friday 4/29)

Week 15: (5/2 – 5/6) – What is the Future of Business?

Monday: *Reading:* Adam Smith – “The Benefits of Capitalism” (533) & Karl Marx – “Commodity Fetishism” (535) – **LQ12**

Wednesday: *Reading:* E.F. Schumacher – “Buddhist Economics” (549) – **RQ17**

Friday: *Reading:* Amartya Sen – “The Economics of Poverty” (554)

Due: Wednesday 5/4: Reading Quiz #17 (Posted on Monday 5/2)

Monday 5/9: Lecture Quiz #13 (Posted on Friday 5/6)

Friday 5/6: In-Class Assignment #9

Week 16: (5/9 – 5/13) - NOTE: May 13th is the final day of instruction for the semester

Monday: *Reading:* Aristotle – “On the Good Life” (579) - **LQ13 & RQ18**

Wednesday: *Reading:* Epicurus – “On Pleasure” (586) & Solomon Schimmel – “Greed” (589)

Friday: *Review for the Final Exam*

Due: Monday 5/9: Lecture Quiz #13 (Posted on Friday 5/6)

Monday 5/9: Due Essay #2 (Link to hand in essay in CANVAS)

Monday 5/9: Reading Quiz #18 (Posted Friday 5/6)

Friday 5/8: In-Class Assignment #10

Provided: Monday 5/9 Final Exam Study Guide

Week 17: (5/16 – 5/20) – Final Week
Final Exam: Wednesday, 5/18 (8 AM – 10 AM)

Note: Grades due by midnight on 5/25

Note: Changes, including small changes to the readings, will be made at the discretion of the professor.

