SYLLABUS

BLAW 368- 02: BUSINES ETHICS VALUES

(4919)

INSTRUCTOR:Professor Sandor E. Samuels

Contact: Email: sandor.samuels@csun.edu

 Office: Bookstein Hall, Room 3238

Class Time: Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

Location: Bookstein Hall, Room 1121

Textbook: Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings, Jennings, Marianne Moody, 9th edition, Cengage Learning, ISBN – 978-1-305-97254-4; e-book, ISBN 9780357453872.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Office hours are also available by appointment. Even during office hours, please try to make an appointment.

**Mission of the Department of Business Law**

Our mission is to equip students with the academic knowledge, problem solving, analytical and professional skills in the areas of business law, business ethics, and real estate necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals.

**General Education Requirements**

LIFE-LONG LEARNING OVERALL GOAL: STUDENTS WILL: develop cognitive, physical and affective skills which will allow them to become more integrated and well- rounded individuals within various physical, social, cultural, and technological environments and communities.

Life-Long Learning GE SLO #1: Students will identify and actively engage in behaviors conducive to individual health, well-being, or development, and understand the value of maintaining these behaviors throughout their lifespan.

BLAW 368 helps students identify ethical issues, analyze them using models of ethical thinking, and plan behaviors consistent with ethical conduct.

Life-Long Learning GE SLO #2: Students will identify and apply strategies leading to health, well-being, or development for community members of diverse populations;

BLAW 368 helps student identify courses of conduct using models of ethical analysis. Behaving ethically helps create greater health, well-being and development for students and for our larger environment.

GE Upper Division Writing Requirement: BLAW 368 is an upper division GE course that requires completion of writing assignments totaling a minimum of 2,500 words. This will be your final exam, which will be a take-home final.

**Further Objectives of the Course**

1. To explore the predominant ethical theories that have affected business in a historical and cultural context;

2. To gain experience in the critical thinking skills required for ethical analysis and problem solving;

3. To hone analytical writing skills;

4. To begin to understand and consider ethical and policy issues which are critical for being an ethical and effective member of the business community.

**Exams and Grading**

The grade allocation will be based on points roughly as follow:

Class Participation: Approximately 10% - 15% of course grade

Quizzes: Approximately 20% - 25% of course grade

Midterm: Approximately 25% - 30% of course grade

Final Take Home Exam: Approximately 30% - 35% of course grade

*Current Events*: From time to time, students may also be asked to comment upon current events or to find current examples of the materials covered in the text. These assignments will count toward your Class Participation grade.

*Class partners*: You should try to make friends and share contact information with other students in the class of your choosing. You should check in with your class partner(s) if you miss information in class and likewise be available to your partner(s) if they miss class information.

*Due Dates*: The assignments are due as indicated on this Syllabus, on Canvas, or as announced in class.

**Class Preparation**

You must do the assigned readings for each class prior to the start of class. A student’s consistent and/or recurring failures to be properly prepared to discuss the assigned materials shall result in a downward adjustment in the student’s Class Participation grade. Also, it is my experience that if a student does not come prepared to class, that student is not likely to receive a good grade in the class.

**Exams**

There will be at least two quizzes, a midterm and a Take-Home Final Exam. Examinations will cover material imparted in class, class lectures and discussions and all assigned readings. Examinations will be cumulative.

Students will have the allotted time as provided by the Professor to complete the quizzes and the midterm exam. No additional time will be granted, including for students who arrive late. Quizzes and the midterm exam will consist of short essays and/or multiple-choice questions and will be closed book. Use of any materials during examinations is prohibited.

Examinations will consist of essays and/or fill-in-the-blank and multiple-choice questions and will be closed book. Use of any materials during examinations is prohibited. Also, with regard to the Final Take Home Exam, students will be allowed to consult the assigned readings and their notes from the lectures. You may also listen to any of the class recordings found in the Modules section of Canvas. You may not work or consult with any other person in the preparation of the Final Take Home Exam. Also, no outside sources are allowed to be used in connection with the Final Take Home Exam. **In particular, no student may use the internet in any way, shape or form in connection with the Final Take Home Exam.**

Quizzes and the midterm exam must be taken on the dates administered in order to receive credit toward the final grade. Students who must miss such an examination due to personal illness or injury, death or illness in the family, jury duty or religious holidays, or any other acceptable reason, must contact the Professor prior to the examination to make alternate arrangements. Student athletes are urged to contact the Professor as soon as possible to discuss their ability to sit for examinations on the days set forth in the syllabus. Students will not be permitted to sit for examinations after the scheduled dates set forth in the syllabus without the Professor’s prior approval. Such approval is within the sole discretion of the Professor.

Any student failing to abide by these policies will receive a zero for the examination in question.

**Class Participation**

Everyone benefits when students actively participate in classroom work and discussions. The participation grade reflects both a student’s performance in the classroom, including providing insights and interpretations to issues raised and participation in class discussions, and a student’s attendance in the course.

Student participation and attendance are key elements to the successful completion of this course. A significant portion of this course will be devoted to the discussion of issues and events relating to the course materials. Students must be prepared to discuss course materials at all times. In order to be fully prepared to participate, all assignments described in the syllabus must be read prior to the class in which they will be discussed.

**Academic Honesty**

We will adhere to the university’s policy on academic honesty. For each examination, you will be asked to sign the following pledge: “I pledge on my honor that during this examination, I have neither given nor received assistance.” Instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” for the course and will be referred to the Dean's office for further action.

**Changes to Syllabus**

The Professor reserves the right, upon reasonable notice to the class, to modify or update the assignments/items herein. No such modification or update shall take place without the Professor making an announcement to that effect in class and/or through Canvas.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment** |
| Class 1-ATuesdayJanuary 25 | Introduction | Preface pp. xii – xix; and review Syllabus |
| Class 1-BTuesdayJanuary 25 | Exploring Ethical Decision Making; Defining Ethics; Types of Ethical Dilemmas | Read pp. 1 – top of 19 |
| Class 2-ATuesdayFebruary 1 | Resolving Ethical Dilemmas and Personal Introspections; Rationalizing and Labeling; Slippery Slope | Read pp., 19 – 34 |
| Class 2-BTuesdayFebruary 1 | Cheating (start with reading 1.11 On Plagiarism) | Read pp. 34 – 47, and answer Discussion Questions 5 and 6 on page 41. One paragraph for each question. The assignment will be found on Canvas. Turn the assignment in before Class 3-A. |
| Class 3-ATuesday February 8 | Solving Ethical Dilemmas; Personal Introspection; What Gets in the Way of Ethical Decisions in Business? | Read pp. 49 – 65. |
| Class 3-BTuesdayFebruary 8 | BP and Deepwater Horizon Explosion; Valeant | Read pp. 66 – 83. |
| Class 4-ATuesday February 15 | Resolving Ethical Dilemmas; Wall Street; Penn State; Deflategate | Read pp. 84—112. Watch Ariely, Our Buggy Moral Code (U-Tube), and take the 3 question quiz on Canvas, due at the beginning of Class 5-A |
| Class 4-BTuesdayFebruary 15 | Milton Friedman; Stakeholder Theory – Daraprim Drug, Walmart, Chipotle | Read pp. 116 *–* 137 |
| Class 5-ATuesdayFebruary 22 | Quiz 1 |  |
| Class 5-BTuesdayFebruary 22 | Guns; Craigslist; Planned Parenthood | Read pp. 137—151 |
| Class 6-ATuesdayMarch 1 | Mortgage Meltdown; Covid-19 Pandemic | Read pp. 151 – 162, and pp. 273 -- 280; See U-Tube link on Countrywide’s Subprime Scandal and The Rise and Fall of Angelo Mozilo (type in Ethics – Countrywide – Angelo Mozilo); also read Ethics Services Responding to the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic found at the following link: (<https://www.the> hastingscenter.org/ethicalframeworkcovid19/) See also the YouTube video, “Pandemic Ethics: Tackling COVID 19’s Tough Questions (UT Southwestern Medical Center) November 9, 2020. |
| Class 6-BTuesdayMarch 1 | Music and Sports | Read pp. 162 – 174, and pp.415 -- 418, and “Is it Moral to Take a Knee?” (Markkula Center for Applied Ethics) |
| Class 7-ATuesdayMarch 8 | Temptation to Work for Individual Gain and That Credo: Compensation Systems; Accounting and Earnings Management; Sarbanes Oxley and Dodd Frank | Read pp. 196 – 216; and pp. 243 – 246 |
| Class 7-BTuesdayMarch 8 | The Psychological and Behavioral Factors; Rogues; Finova; SAT | Read pp. 217 –242 |
| Class 8-ATuesday March 15 | WorldCom | Read pp. 247 – 263, and pp. 268 – 272 |
| Class 8-BTuesdayMarch 15 | Midterm | This Midterm will take Entire Class Period |
| Tuesday March 22 | No Class | Spring Break |
| Class 9-ATuesday March 29 | Industry Practices and Legal Factors – Enron | Read pp. 280 — 299 |
| Class 9-BTuesday March 29 | A Primer on Whistleblowing; Bernie Madoff | Read pp. 318 – 334; and pp. 335 -- 336 |
| Class 10-ATuesday April 5 | Ethics in International Business; International Labor | Read pp. 385 -- 409 |
| Class 10-BTuesdayApril 5 | Bribes, Grease Payments and “When in Rome.” | Read pp. 411 – 414 and pp. 418 -- 423 |
| Class 11-ATuesdayApril 12 | Ethics in Contracts | Read pp. 349 – 352, pp. 359 – 374, and pp. 377 -- 382 |
| Class 11-BTuesdayApril 12 | Workplace Diversity | Read pp. 442 – 459 |
| Class 12-ATuesday April 19 | Workplace Confrontation | Read pp. 460 – 470 |
| Class 12-BTuesdayApril 19 | Product Safety | Read pp. 477 -- 494  |
| Class 13-ATuesdayApril 26 | Product Sales | Read pp. 501 -- 512; Read about the Wells Fargo Scandal at [law.corpgov.harvard.edu › 2019/02/06 › the- Wells-Fargo-cross-selling scandal](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=2ahUKEwiW14icn8XmAhVbHTQIHT1bA9kQFjABegQIAxAG&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcorpgov.law.harvard.edu%2F2019%2F02%2F06%2Fthe-wells-fargo-cross-selling-scandal-2%2F&usg=AOvVaw211GR2Z7y55DSrXF5p8u58) |
| Class 13-BTuesday April 26 | Intellectual Property and Ethics | Read pp. 536 – 540; and read BESR.org |
| Class 14-ATuesdayMay 3 | All’s Fair or Is it? | Read pp. 525 ---535 |
| Class 14-BTuesday May 3 | Quiz 2 | This Quiz will take up the entire class time |
| Class 15-ATuesdayMay 10 | Opportunity to ask questions about the Take Home Final Exam |  |