SYLLABUS

BLAW 368: LAW, BUSINESS & ETHICS

INSTRUCTOR:Professor Sandor E. Samuels

Contact: Email: [sandor.samuels@csun.edu](mailto:sandor.samuels@csun.edu)

Office: Bookstein Hall 3238, and via Zoom

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Location: Synchronous Class through Zoom

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: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Office hours are also available by 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.

**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 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. Examinations will consist of short essays and/or multiple-choice questions and will be closed book. Use of any materials during examinations is prohibited. The final exam will be open book/open note. It will be due on or before Wednesday, December 9 at 12:15 p.m., or at such other time as may be announced by the Professor.

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, or as soon as reasonably possible (but no later than one week after the examination), to make alternate arrangements. If this is still relevant, 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.

**Term Paper**

The Term Paper will ask each student to answer a series of questions and to prepare certain documents as the Human Resources Director for a company based on knowledge obtained from the course. The term paper should not exceed 10 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font).

**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.

**Distance Learning**

This course will be completed in a fully online format with other students through the use of Zoom. Participation is vital to your success as a student as well as the online community that we are trying to establish. Participation will include online lectures and discussions through the Zoom sessions. You must enable your audio so that everyone can hear you, and you must enable your video so that everyone can see you. Repeated absences or lack of participation or a combination of both may adversely affect your grade in this class. If you have any issue with any of the above requirements, you must discuss such issue with the Professor at the earliest opportunity. If you miss a class, you may access a recording of the class session.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment** |
| Class 1  Monday  August 24 | Introduction | Preface pp. xii – xix; and review Syllabus |
| Class 2  Wednesday  August 26 | Exploring Ethical Decision Making; Defining Ethics | Read pp. 1 – top of 14. |
| Class 3  Monday  August 31 | Types of Ethical Dilemmas | Read pp., 14 - 19 |
| Class 4  Wednesday  September 2 | Rationalizing and Labeling; Slippery Slope | Read pp. 19 -- 28. |
| Class 5  Monday  September 7 | Resolving Ethical Dilemmas and Personal Introspections | Read pp. 29 – 34 (through Reading 1.10) |
| Class 6  Wednesday  September 9 | Cheating | Read pp. 35 – 47 |
| Class 7  Monday  September 14 | Solving Ethical Dilemmas; Personal Introspection | Read pp. 49 – 60. |
| Class 8  Wednesday  September 16 | The Bathsheba Syndrome; The Either/Or Conundrum; BP and Deepwater Horizon Explosion | Read pp. 61 – 70, (begin reading about British Petroleum and Deepwater Horizon) |
| Class 9  Monday  September 21 | BP and Deepwater Horizon Explosion; Valeant | Read pp. 71 – 83. |
| Class 10  Wednesday  September 23 | Resolving Ethical Dilemmas; Wall Street; Penn State; Deflategate | Read pp. 84 – 112 |
| Monday  September 28 | NO CLASS – Yom Kippur (Jewish Holiday | Watch Ariely, Our Buggy Moral Code (U-Tube), and take the 3 question quiz on Canvas, due at the beginning of Class 11, Wednesday, September 30 |
| Class 11  Wednesday  September 30 | Milton Friedman; Stakeholder &\*Theory – Daraprim Drug, Walmart, Chipotle | Read pp. 116 *–* 137 |
| Class 12  Monday  October 5 | Guns; Craigslist; Planned Parenthood | Read pp. 137—151 |
| Class 13  Wednesday  October 7 | 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/ |
| Class 14  Monday  October 12 | Music and Sports | Read pp. 162 – 174, and 415 -- 420, and “Is it Moral to Take a Knee?” (Markkula Center for Applied Ethics) |
| Class 15  Wednesday  October 14 | Temptation to Work for Individual Gain and That Credo: Compensation Systems; Accounting and Earnings Management; Sarbanes Oxley and Dodd Frank | Read pp. 196 – 214; and pages 243 – 246 |
| Class 16  Monday  October 19 | The Psychological and Behavioral Factors; Rogues | Read pp. 217 –237 |
| Class 17  Wednesday  October 21 | WorldCom | Read pp. 247 – 263, and pp. 268 – 272 |
| Class 18  Monday  October 26 | Midterm | Entire Class |
| Class 19  Wednesday  October 28 | Industry Practices and Legal Factors – Enron | Read pp. 280—299 |
| Class 20  Monday  November 2 | A Primer on Whistleblowing | Read pp. 318 – 334 |
| Class 21  Wednesday  November 4 | Ethics and Contracts | Read pp. 349 – 352, pp. 359 – 374, and pp. 377 – 384. |
| Class 22  Monday  November 9 | Ethics in International Business | Read pp. 385 – 404 |
| Wednesday  November 11 | No Class – Veteran’s Day |  |
| Class 23  Monday  November 16 | Ethics in International Business (Continued); Bribes, Grease Payments, and “When in Rome” | Read pp. 404 – 423 |
| Class 24  Wednesday  November 18 | Workplace Diversity | Read pp. 442 – 459 |
| Class 25  Monday  November 23 | Workplace Confrontation | Read pp. 460 – 470 |
| Class 26  Wednesday  November 25 | Product Safety | Read pp. 477 – 494 |
| Class 27  Monday  November 30 | Product Sales | Read pp. 501—512; Read 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 28  Wednesday  December 2 | Covenants Not to Compete; Intellectual Property and Ethics | Read pp. 514 – 524, and pp. 536—540 |
| Class 29  Monday  December 7 | All’s Fair, or Is it? | Read pp. 525—535 |