

BUSINESS LAW 368
Bookstein 1121
Professor Pardau
Thursday 4-6:45 p.m.
Spring 2021

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For email messages, type "BLAW 368" in the reference portion

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Office Hours: Thursdays at 6-7 pm or Thursdays 5-6 pm. or by appointment.

Text/Readings: Text: Marianne M. Jennings, BUSINESS ETHICS: CASE STUDIES AND SELECTED READINGS, South –Western, CENGAGE Learning, 8th Ed., 2015
There are "case studies" some of which contain readings, others of which will be discussed in class without readings (supported by video or short link. Additional Readings as assigned; Check Moodle; in class assignments

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 including a final written assignment of 2,500 words.

Further Objectives of the Course

1. To explore the predominant ethical theories which 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

This course has one graded Work Assignment (“WA”) based on materials covered in class, a midterm, and a Final Take-Home (2,500 words or more in length).

The grade allocation is as follows:

Two quizzes (each one is worth 10%): 20% of course grade
Take Mid-Term: 25% of course grade
Work Assignment (“WA”): 15% of course grade.
Final Take-Home: 40% of course grade

The Take-Home Final must be a thoroughly researched paper, 2,500 words in length, on a mutually agreed topical ethics related subject agreed to between the student and the instructor. Details to follow as the Semester progresses.

The “WA” will be a written work assignment analyzing materials covered in class and shall not exceed 500 words. Details to follow as the Semester progresses.

The Midterm will be a written work assignment analyzing materials covered in class and shall not exceed 1,000 words. Details to follow as the Semester progresses.

The grade reached after averaging the quizzes, the WA, your Term Paper and your preparation in connection with all other assignments, will be the minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your course grade may be raised based on classroom participation and demonstrable improvement throughout the Semester.

Grading System (taken from "Regulations", CSUN catalog)

GRADE	DEFINITION	GRADE POINTS
A	Outstanding	4.0
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B	Very Good	3.0
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Average	2.0
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	Barely Passing	1.0
D-		0.7
F		0

General Instructions on Taking Exams

Caution:

- Use non-eraseable dark blue or black ink for your essays. Do not use white-out or tear pages out of your blue book.
- Bring one large bluebook and one 882 scantron to the midterms and final. Do not write your name on the bluebook cover; instead write your name on the inside back cover of the bluebook only. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure blind grading. Write on every line of the blue book. Write on only one side of each page; however you may use the facing page to insert information. Write your name on the exam itself. When you complete the exam, place the exam and scantron inside your bluebook and turn in the whole as a package. Failure to follow all of these directions will cause a 0.1 reduction in your exam grade. Failure to return the exam itself will result in a grade of "F" for the exam and may be referred to the Dean's office for further proceedings.
- All exams are closed book, EXCEPT one page ONLY (front and back) of notes IS ALLOWED.

Lastly, final grades for each CSUN course in the Business Law Department at the College of Business and Economics is mandated by a “curve”. Each course series (200, 300, 400 & 500), has their own Departmental mandates/requirements which will be reviewed later on in the Semester.

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, at the Professor's sole discretion, in a downward adjustment in the said student's final grade.

While most classes are live, there may be some online/remote components to this class so that we complete the requisite course work. Assignments include readings from the Jennings textbook, and other links to articles/handouts that will be distributed throughout the Semester. Through the course of the Semester, there will be 5 full-length movies and at least one documentary. These supplemental sources are critical elements of this course; as such your full attention and participation relative to these activities is essential.

No Gift Policy

Pursuant to University Policies and best practices, the Professor cannot – and will not – accept a gift or anything else of value from a student, even a gift or item that you may consider has only nominal or limited value.

Academic Integrity

This is a 100% online class that is both synchronous and asynchronous, meaning some of the scheduled class session will be “live”, other class days will have content previously recorded or will direct you to other materials to watch and work on. On those “asynchronous days, you will have the ability to watch and review the assigned material at any time or day you wish that is convenient for you, but obviously you will not want to let things slide too much into subsequent weeks.

The synchronous or “live” sessions will be on ZOOM. Wherever possible, I will try to record the ZOOM lectures and post them a day or two later immediately following that class. I cannot guarantee that all lectures will be recorded on ZOOM, but I will try.

Also, on those scheduled classes when we do have “live” synchronous lectures, even though 2 hours and 45 minutes are scheduled, we will probably go for less than time with that since close to 3 hours is a lot of time to spend in front of the screen. When we do go for less than the 2 hour and 45 minutes, any additional time will be supplemented with individualized work or other content assigned to you.

Given the dynamic and ever-changing nature of this “new COVID 19 environment”, we all need to be flexible and be aware that circumstances may change and may change quickly. Note, I reserve the right, in my sole discretion, to make necessary adjustments to the syllabus which I will announce on CANVAS and in class.

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 several announcements to that effect in class.

Assignments

	Readings	Work due
Jan 28th	DEFINING ETHICS. JENNINGS TEXT pp. 2-32	Assigned Reading
Feb 4th	DEFINING ETHICS con'd/RESOLVING ETHICAL DILEMMAS (Case Study 1 ; Scott London/KPMG) pp. 33-51 (RESOLVING ETHICAL DILEMMAS) SOLVING ETHICAL DILEMMAS AND PERSONAL INTROSPECTION, JENNINGS TEXT, pp. 53-107 Case Study 2 -Arthur Andersen & Enron	Assigned Reading
Feb 11th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS THE TOUGH ISSUES OF ECONOMICS, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND BUSINESS, JENNINGS, pp. 110-125 Case Study 3 – Theranos/Elizabeth Holmes	Assigned Reading
Feb 18th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS APPLYING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, STAKEHOLDER THEORY; GOVT AS STAKEHOLDER pp.126-187 Movie Night (#1): “Twelve Angry Men” “WA #1” given to class is due February 25th	Assigned Reading
Feb 25th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS TEMPTATION TO WORK FOR INDIVIDUAL GAIN AND THAT CREDO, JENNINGS, pp. 190-245 Case Study 4 – Anthony Weiner WA #1 due at start of class; February 25th TAKE-HOME MID-TERM ASSIGNED	Assigned Reading
March 4th	Quiz #1 THE STRUCTURE FACTORS, GOVERNANCE, EXAMPLE & LEADERSHIP (CON'D), JENNINGS, pp. 246-273 Case Study 5 – Oscar Munoz, David Dao and United Airlines Flight 3411, and the case of Edeline Orban.	Assigned Reading

Assigned Reading

March 11th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS TAKE-HOME MID-TERM IS DUE THE INDUSTRY PRACTICES AND LEGAL FACTORS, JENNINGS, pp. 274-355 Movie Night #2 – The Inventor: Out for Blood In Silicon Valley	
March 18th	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	NO CLASS/ NO READINGS
March 25th	THE INDUSTRY PRACTICES AND LEGAL FACTORS (con'd) pp.274-355 ETHICS AND CONTRACTS, JENNINGS, pp. 358-385 Case Study 6 – Bernie Madoff Movie Night #3 – The Wolf of Wall Street	Do additional Assigned Reading WORKPLACE LOYALTY, CONFLICTS, DIVERSITY AND ATMOSPHERE, JENNINGS, pp. 424-460
April 1st	NO CLASS – Observance of Religious Holiday	
April 8th	QUIZ #2 ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, JENNINGS, pp. 388-422) Case Study 7 – WeWork and Adam Neumann	Assigned Reading
April 15th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS	
April 22nd	ATLAS SHRUGGED (Movie Night #4) WORKPLACE DIVERSITY, PRIVACY, CONFRONTATION and THE ENVIRONMENT, pp. 461-489 Case Study 8 – Billy McFarland and the Fry Festival FINAL EXAM PAPERS ASSIGNED.	Assigned Reading
April 29th	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS Movie Night #5: Crimes & Misdemeanors	
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	ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS	
May 6th	TAKE HOME FINALEXAM ASSIGNED; Case Study 9 – Harvey Weinstein: Watch Documentary “Generation Startup”.	
May 13th	TAKE HOME FINALEXAM DUE; FINAL ETHICS ASSESSMENT; CLASS PROJECT	

