## Business Ethics (Philosophy 305)

**Fall 2020**

**Syllabus**

## Instructor

Me: Adam Swenson, Ph.D. (I prefer to be called ‘Adam’)

Email: adam.swenson@csun.edu

Phone: 818.677.2750 (I am flaky about checking voicemail, please email/use canvas)

Office: Sierra Tower 504

## Topics

Ethical issues related to sales, advertising, business analytics, and big data, with an emphasis on emerging issues related to privacy, information security, and autonomy.

## Materials

All readings and other required materials for this course will be posted on Canvas. There is no required textbook for you to purchase.

## Office Hours

I will hold office hours virtually via Canvas. For details see:

https://github.com/AdamSwenson/biz-ethics-docs/blob/master/policy-pages/Office%20hours.docx?raw=true

## Course grade breakdown

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

90% Unit assignments

The course will be structured into (roughly) 6 two-week units. Each unit will contain several assignments which together determine the grade for that unit. Each unit will be worth 15% of your course grade (so, 6 units \* 15% each = 90% of course grade)

5% Weekly journal entries.

See the Journal Policies page on Canvas.

5% Other participation / engagement activities

## Warning

This is the first time I’ve taught this course fully online. There will be a lot of experimentation and adjustment as we figure this out together. I promise I will do everything I can to make this class awesome enough to compensate for the inevitable bumps and snags.

## Course policies

**Academic integrity**

I take violations of academic integrity very seriously. I do not simply give ‘F’s’ for such violations; I refer any and all suspected violations of academic integrity to the Dean of Student Affairs. If you have any questions about what counts as a violation of academic integrity, please consult the Student Conduct Code (http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/student-conduct-code), CSUN Catalog (https://catalog.csun.edu/policies/academic-dishonesty/), or ask me.

## Accommodations

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD). The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at 818.677.2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at 818.677.2611. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment.

I want everyone to be able to participate equally and fully in class. I will do my best to ensure that all materials are accessible when posted. If I miss something or if you run into other difficulties, please let me know right away so I can fix it.

**Participation and conduct**

In this class we will all learn from each other (including me from you). Therefore consistent, universal, and high quality participation is absolutely vital and required.

Similarly, we will vigorously and critically argue over difficult ideas. We all lose out when someone does not feel able to contribute to our discussions. Therefore, each of us is responsible for ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all students to express their reasoned opinions.

The Class Conduct Policy page on Canvas describes our rules, guidelines, and handling of violations. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree to conduct yourself in accordance with Class Conduct Policy and its revisions.

**Email and Canvas communications**

All communications from me will be sent to you via Canvas or via email to your CSUN email address. You are responsible for the contents of these communications. Therefore, you must check your messages and Canvas frequently.

## Grade disputes

Grading is a difficult process and sometimes mistakes get made. Therefore, if you ever have any questions or concerns about any grade, I want you to discuss it with me. Any requests for grade reevaluations must take place within 10 working days of receiving your grade. After 10 days, the grade becomes permanent.

## Late assignments

Most assignments will not be accepted late due to their substantial peer review and discussion components. Thus it is extremely important that you keep up with the class and do not get behind. When partial credit for late submissions is available for an assignment, the late policy will be included in the announcement of the assignment.

## Plus/minus grading

I will use plus/minus grading in this course.

## Savings clause

Every aspect of the course, including requirements, policies, and practices, is subject to change at my sole discretion. For any substantive matter (i.e., significantly affecting grades) I will not make changes without requesting input from the class. The version of this syllabus posted on Canvas will always be the current and authoritative version.

## Scheduling

All dates are subject to change. Any changes to the course plan and assigned readings will be announced in class and updated on the Canvas. I will also post various supplementary materials. It is your responsibility to be up to date on all changes. Thus please check Canvas frequently.

## Title IX / Sexual misconduct disclosures

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. In the event that you choose to write, speak or otherwise disclose about having experienced sexual misconduct/sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and specify that this violence occurred while you or the perpetrator were a CSUN student, federal and state laws require that I, as a “responsible employee,” notify our campus Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options as a survivor and connect you with support resources, including possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Know that you will not be forced to share information and your level of involvement will be your choice.

CSUN’s Title IX Coordinator is located at:

University Hall, Room 285

Phone: (818) 677-2077

If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing the experience to me, you can speak **confidentially** with our Campus Care Advocate.\*

CSUN’s Campus Care Advocate is:

Katie LaRue

Klotz Student Health Center, Room 140G

Phone: (818) 677-7492  
E-Mail: katelin.larue@csun.edu

For more information regarding your university rights and options as a survivor of sexual misconduct/sexual violence, please visit the University’s Title IX website at: http://www.csun.edu/shinalight

\*Note: If it is determined that an alleged perpetrator poses an imminent threat to the broader campus community or if person(s) under 18 years of age are involved, our Campus Care Advocate is required to notify our Department of Police Services.

## Curricular information

## Official course description

*Prerequisite: Completion of the lower division writing requirement.* Application of the insights and methods of moral philosophy to a practical examination of contemporary moral problems and normative issues of public policy concerning the conduct and responsibilities of individuals and firms in business and the organization and role of business and economic institutions in society. Regular written assignments are required. (Available for General Education, Lifelong Learning.)

**Role in the General Education Program**

*1. Lifelong Learning GE Requirement*

*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.

*Student Learning Outcomes*

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;

Identify and apply strategies leading to health, well-being, or development for community members of diverse populations;

Apply the knowledge and skills of science and technology and evaluate how they impact individuals, the community, and/or society.

*2. Writing Intensive GE Requirement*

*Goal*: Students will develop their abilities to express themselves and the knowledge they have obtained through practicing various forms of writing within different disciplinary contexts. Writing intensive courses will build upon the skills gained in the Analytical Reading and Expository Writing section of Basic Skills. In each WI course students will be required to complete writing assignments totaling a minimum of 2500 words.

*Student Learning Outcomes*

Students will:

Develop and clearly define their ideas through writing;

Ethically integrate sources of various kinds into their writing;

Compose texts through drafting, revising, and completing a finished product;

Express themselves through their writing by posing questions, making original claims, and coherently structuring complex ideas;

Revise their writing for greater cogency and clarity;

Utilize adopted communication modes and documentation styles of specific disciplines (MLA, APA, Chicago, CBE, etc.) where appropriate.