

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** BUS. 205    **TITLE:** Business Ethics and Social Responsibility  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; 96.0-108.0 Homework hours; 144.0-162.0 Total Student Learning hours  
**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
This course examines the relationships and interdependencies between businesses, government and society. Topics covered are ethical principles, schools of ethics, regulations, and social and environmental impact of business behavior. Students will study and evaluate historical and ethical business cases.
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Identify the major sources of ethical values and principles in business ethics and differences in cultural values.
  2. Examine the impact of corporate behavior on its stakeholders including shareholders, employees, customers, government, society and the environment.
  3. Explain how organizations balance resources and outcomes focusing on the triple bottom line: people, planet and profit.
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Explain the role of business, government and society and their impact on the bottom line of people, planet, profits.
  2. Create a corporate culture of social responsibility.
  3. Analyze the value of all stakeholders of a business, such as shareholders, employees, suppliers, community and government.
  4. Evaluate ethical decisions on business.
  5. Examine the impact of multinational corporations on global trade, human rights and the environment.
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**
  1. Framework for Studying Business, Government, and Society
    - A. The Study of Business, Government, and Society
    - B. Business Power
    - C. Critics of Business
  2. The Nature and Management of Corporate Responsibility
    - A. Corporate Social Responsibility
    - B. Implementing Corporate Social Responsibility
  3. Managing Ethics
    - A. Business Ethics
    - B. Making Ethical Decisions in Business
  4. Business and Government
    - A. Business in Politics
    - B. Regulating Business
  5. Multinational Corporations and Globalization
    - A. Multinational Corporations
    - B. Globalization, Trade, and Corruption
  6. Corporations and the Natural Environment
    - A. Industrial Pollution and Environmental Regulation
    - B. Managing Environmental Quality
  7. Consumerism

- 8. Human Resources
  - A. The Changing Workplace
  - B. Civil Rights, Women, and Diversity
- 9. Corporate Governance

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Activity
- C. Critique
- D. Discussion
- E. Guest Speakers

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Students will read a case study and, in a writing assignment, come up with best-case scenario solutions.

**Reading Assignments:**

Case studies, textbook chapters, news articles.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Final Performance
- F. Group Projects
- G. Homework
- H. Oral Presentation
- I. Papers
- J. Projects
- K. Quizzes
- L. Research Projects
- M. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Archie, C.B., Brown, J., Buchholtz, A.K.. *Business & Society: Ethics, Sustainability & Stakeholder Management*, 11th ed. Boston, MA: Cengage, 2023
- B. Lawrence, A., Weber, James. *Business and Society: Stakeholders, Ethics, Public Policy*, 17th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2023

**Origination Date:** November 2023

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**Course Originator:** Philip Tran