GENERAL INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS
Business, Ethics, & Society – BUSI 3325.005
Fall 2023
Tues., Thur. 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Room: McGee Business Building, 161

Professor: Dr. Justin R. Blount
Tel: (936) 468-3103 Department
Nelson Rusche College of Business/McGee Building 229K
Department of Business Communications & Legal Studies
(936) 468-1785 Office
Email: blountjr@sfasu.edu

Office Hours:

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<th>Office Hours</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (online)</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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Course Description: A comprehensive study of the dynamic social, political, legal, and regulatory environments within which domestic and international businesses must operate. Course topics are examined with an emphasis on ethical business decision making and consideration of the social responsibility of business.

Prerequisite: Junior Standing

Program Learning Outcomes: Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Goals and Objectives:

This course is designed to emphasize and explain the importance of understanding the dynamics of the environment of the business community. After completing this course, the student will be able to identify the environmental forces that may impact the operation of a business, and further, to understand the importance of being prepared for environmental changes and anticipating the expectations of
stakeholders. This course will also help the business student develop an understanding and application of ethical principles in evaluating business decisions, as well as considering the social responsibility expected by the stakeholders of the business community in the decision-making process.

Upper-Level Class and Professionalism Expectations

As you advance in your studies at the junior and senior levels, you should expect course work to become more demanding. You are expected to complete all readings and activities assigned to the best of your ability, and this work should be at a more advanced level than what was expected in courses in the core curriculum courses. In an upper-level class, you are expected to prepare more and complete assignments from knowledge in your class readings, your own research, and personal experience.

As business student, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. All communications in this class (including assignment submissions, email messages, and class discussions) should present you as a professional in the field. This means that you should always use professional language, proper spelling/grammar/punctuation, appropriate addresses, and completeness in your communications. Each communication you make will help shape your professional image, and this class is the time to practice this. Always proofread your messages from the standpoint of your receiver and make adjustments as needed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations: There will be 3 “mini-examinations” that will be taken online via D2L (45 min. each) and 2 in-class examinations (a mid-term and a final). The examinations will be worth the following points:

- 3 Mini-Examinations: 60 points each (total of 180 points)
- Mid-Term Examination: 125 points
- Final Examination: 150 points
- Total Exam Points: 455 points

Students are responsible on every exam for all material covered in class and also for all reading assigned outside of class. All examinations are considered to be a major part of the course work upon which a large part of your grade depends. **Missed exams will only be excused and allowed to be made up for university-excused absences or for extreme emergencies that justify missing the exam. What constitutes an extreme emergency is within the discretion of the instructor.** Any excused exams must be scheduled for make up within two (2) days of the missed exam or the emergency has resolved itself, or students missing the exam will receive a point value of zero (0) for the missed exam. It is entirely the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with me to take the missed exam. If you have a conflict with another university event or a university excused absence, you must contact me well in advance of the examination. In case of an extreme emergency that prevents you from taking an exam, contact me before the scheduled examination if at all possible. If it is not possible to contact me before the exam, contact me as soon as possible after the emergency is resolved. Failure to do so may result in an examination grade of zero. Other than extreme and unexpected emergencies, there are **no exemptions** for the final examination and **no changes** in taking the final examination. Check the final exam time. If the final exam time is a problem, you need to drop this course. Possession of a cell phone
or other electronic communication device during an exam will result in an examination grade of zero (0). **Never take an exam or graded answer sheet out of the classroom.** This will result in an automatic zero (0) on the exam. **Unless otherwise instructed, you will need a laptop computer to complete the exams.** The exams will be conducted in the classroom, but will be conducted via D2L, our course management software. If you do not have a suitable laptop computer, one will be provided for you.

**Late arrivals:** No one will be admitted to an exam after the first exam has been turned in. If you are not present at that point, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for that exam. No one will be permitted to re-enter the room once they leave for any reason (i.e. no leaving in the middle of the exam to go to the bathroom, etc.).

For the online mini-exams, you are allowed to use your books, class notes, and any other study aids you have.

**Individual Writing Assignments (125 points total):** You will write two ethical reasoning case analyses. The first will be worth 50 points, and the second will be worth 75. Further instructions on these assignments are provided in Syllabus Appendix 1.

**Group Presentation Assignment (100 points total):** The class will be divided up into groups of 3-5 students and there is a group assignment you will complete. You will be allowed to choose your own group if you notify me of your choices by the dates set forth in the course schedule below. If you do not notify me of your choices by these dates, I will randomly assign you to a group. This assignment will be worth 100 points. You will make an oral presentation to me related to developing a CSR strategy. The specifics of this assignment are set forth in Appendix 2 of this syllabus.

**Class Participation Bonus Points and Attendance Policy:** All students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and participate in class discussions. It is an important part of the learning process in this course of study for colleagues to share questions, knowledge and insight. The instructor will call roll frequently (possibly every class period) during unannounced, randomly selected class sessions throughout the semester (and **at any point** during the selected class periods), and will call role during each class in which there are student presentations. **It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they are marked as present.** If you are present when roll is called but then leave class early, you will be marked absent. Additionally, if you are present when roll is called but are asked to leave the class due to non-participation or being a distraction, you will be marked absent. Students will be awarded up to five (5) bonus points by the instructor based on the instructor’s assessment of each student’s overall participation - class attendance, preparedness, and relevance of questions/comments/responses. Students with zero to one absence will be awarded an additional five (5) bonus points. **Students with excessive class absences (4 or more) will receive a deduction of 10% of their final earned grade points.** Thus, for example, if a student earns a total of 492 points in the class, then the students final grade would be reduced by 49.2 points (10% x 492), and the students final point total would be 492 – 49.2 = 442.8. **Students with six (6) or more class absences will receive a deduction of 25% of their final earned grade points, which will likely result in you receiving a failing grade.**
Attendance will be kept by passing around a sign-in sheet. **Do not sign-in for someone who is absent. I will be checking the signatures on the sign-in sheets for irregularities. If I determine that you have been having someone else sign-in for you, I will consider this to be academic dishonesty and will take appropriate measures under the SFA academic dishonesty policy, up to and including failing you in the course.**

Cell Phone Usage – **IMPORTANT!** - Cell phones, computers, or any other type of electronic communication device are not allowed in the classroom unless the instructor expressly allows otherwise. If the instructor so directs, all such devices must be turned off and put away during class. If you are using a cell phone, computer, or other electronic device rather than participating in class, you may be instructed to leave the classroom and/or considered to be absent by the instructor.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be determined on the following scale, based on the percentage ratio of the student’s total accumulated points to the total possible (680) points for the course. Decimal points of .5 and over are rounded up to the nearest whole number for determining the final grade (e.g., .795 or 79.5%=80% and would be a B letter grade; .788 or 78.8%=79% and would be a C letter grade).

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<th>Scale</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100% = A</td>
<td>45 points Mini-Exam No. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89% = B</td>
<td>47 points Mini-Exam No. 2</td>
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<td>70-79% = C</td>
<td>50 points Mini-Exam No. 3</td>
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<td>60-69% = D</td>
<td>100 points Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>Below 60% = F</td>
<td>119 points Final Exam</td>
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<td>82 points Ethics Class Presentation</td>
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<td>92 points Case Assignments</td>
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<td>535 Total Accumulated Points</td>
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But consider: 535 +10 bonus points (attendance and participation) = 545/680=.802 or 80.2%=80%=B Letter Grade

Also consider: Suppose you earn 556 points on assignments such that you would have a B (556/680 = .818), but miss class 5 times. The absences cost you a 10% point deduction, resulting in a C (556 x .90 = 500.4; 500.4/680 = 73.59%). **Make sure you attend class and participate!**

**Medical and Other Serious Problems** - Please take time and make the effort to advise me if you have difficulties which require my attention to properly evaluate your classroom participation and activities.

**Late Instructor**- Every effort is made by me to be in the classroom when the class is scheduled to begin. Students will be advised ahead of time if class is delayed or is not going to be held (and this would be extremely rare). Students are expected to wait 15 minutes for the instructor before leaving the class for failure to appear at the beginning of the scheduled time for class.

**Unannounced Tests (Pop Quizzes) -** I reserve the right to give unannounced tests (pop quizzes). Missed tests for university-excused absences will be made up within two (2) calendar days, or students
missing the test will receive a point value of zero (0). It is the student’s total responsibility to make arrangements to take the missed test. Unannounced test points are added to the total possible point accumulation for the course.

**Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4):**

*Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf).) Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.*

**Food, drink, and tobacco products are prohibited in the classroom. Cell phones, computers, or any other type of electronic communication device are not allowed on in the classroom unless the instructor expressly allows otherwise. If the instructor so directs, all such devices must be turned off and put away during class.**

**Academic Integrity**

*The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.*

*Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.*

*Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.*
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial

Use of any artificial intelligence (AI) software or tool, such as ChatGPT, to complete any assignment, including but not limited to any exams, research projects, or written work produced in the class, is considered a violation of the Academic Dishonesty policy and will be treated by the instructor as such.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu
The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Course Calendar: This is a general outline of material expected to be covered. Material covered, dates of tests, and material covered on each exam may vary slightly as necessitated by the pace in which material is covered. Any material deviations from this schedule will be announced and delivered to students either during class or by email.

Aug. 29 Tues. Syllabus, Policies, Chapter 1 – Introduction to the BGS Field
Aug. 31 Thur. Chapter 1 Cont’d.; Chapter 7 – Business Ethics
Sep. 5 Tues. Chapter 7 – Business Ethics
Sep. 7 Thur. Behavioral Ethics

Must notify me by end of class today, by email, of your group of 3-5 individuals if you have formed your own group. If you have not self-
selected a group, I will randomly assign you to a group with others who have not self-selected.

Sep. 12 Tues. Behavioral Ethics/ Chapter 8 – Ethical Decision Making
Sep. 14 Thur. Chapter 8 – Ethical Decision Making
Sep. 19 Tues. Chapter 8 – Ethical Decision Making
Sep. 21 Thur. Chapter 8 – Ethical Decision Making
Sep. 26 Tues. Chapter 5/6 – Corporate Social Responsibility
Sep. 28 Thur. Chapter 5/6 – Corporate Social Responsibility

Online Mini-Test 1 opens on Thursday, Sep. 28 at 5:00 p.m. and is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 1. [Chapters 1, 5, 7, 8, Behavioral Ethics]

Individual Case # 1 – due via D2L Dropbox Sun., Oct. 1 @ 11:59 p.m.

Oct. 3 Tues. Chapter 2 – The Dynamic Environment
Oct. 5 Thur. Chapter 2 – The Dynamic Environment/Chapter 3 – Business Power
Oct. 10 Tues. Chapter 3 – Business Power/Chapter 4 – Critics of Business
Oct. 12 Thur. Chapter 4 – Critics of Business
Oct. 17 Tues. Chapter 4 – Critics of Business
Oct. 19 Thur. Chapter 4 – Critics of Business

Online Mini-Test 2 opens on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 5:00 p.m. and is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 22 [Chapters 2-4]

Oct. 24 Tues. Mid-Term Exam [Chapters 1-5, 7, 8, Behavioral Ethics]
Oct. 26 Thur. Chapter 10 – Regulating Business
Oct. 31 Tues. Chapter 10 – Regulating Business
Nov. 2 Thur. Chapters 13/14 – Managing Environmental Quality
Nov. 7 Tues. Chapters 13/14 – Managing Environmental Quality
Nov. 9 Thur. Chapter 15 – Consumerism
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 15 - Consumerism</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Chapter 15 – Consumerism/Chapter 16 – The Changing Workplace</td>
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<td><strong>Online Mini-Test 3 opens on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 5:00 p.m. and is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19 [Chapters 10, 13, 14, 15]</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 16 – The Changing Workplace</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Chapter 16/Chapter 17 – Civil Rights, Women, and the Workplace</td>
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<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 17 – Civil Rights, Women, and the Workplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>Chapter 17 – Civil Rights, Women, and the Workplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td><strong>Finals Week Begins</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM [Chapters 10, 13-17, 7 &amp; 8, Behavioral Ethics] – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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