

PHIL/BUS3 186 “Professional and Business Ethics”

Section 01: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:45AM

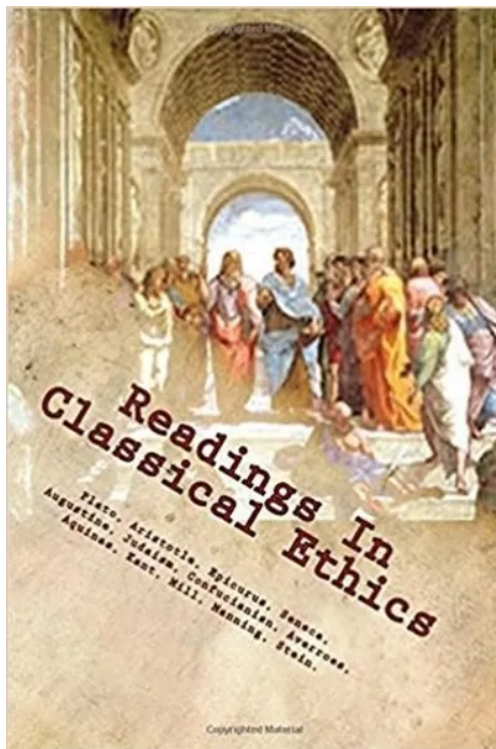
Section 03: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:45AM

On Campus and in Person

Fall 2025

Professor John C. Wilhelmsson

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“Interdisciplinary study of types of ethical problems which arise within the context of business occupations and professions. Major ethical theories, critique of economic and criminal justice. Focus is on issues of justice and equality in US cases.”

*Satisfies SJSU Studies area S
(upper-division GE area 4)*

The first systematic investigation of ethics was done by the philosopher Aristotle in ancient Greece. He identified the purpose, or end, of ethics as being happiness. Discussions about many current ethical issues tend to become divisive. There are many reasons for this, not the least of which is that we tend to think of ethics in terms of what is right and wrong and not in terms of whether engaging, or not engaging, in a particular act will bring happiness. This course will conduct a study of ethical theory and contemporary issues in business in light of the original purpose of ethics — happiness. We will have two class sessions each week. The Monday session will usually consist of a reading quiz on the assigned selection in Readings in Classical Ethics (RICE) followed by a lecture and discussion on same. The Wednesday session will usually consist of a review of the assigned chapter in the An Introduction to Business Ethics (AITBE) textbook.