



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Department of Management and Marketing, College of Business
Ethical Decision Making

Course Name: Ethical Decisions
Course #: :BUAD 4301.902
CRN:: 24107
Instructor: Carol Mattick, JD, MBA
Email: carol.mattick@tamusa.edu
Office: Remote WebEx: https://tamusa.webex.com/meet/carolmattick
Phone: 210-860-0102
Office Hours: By Appointment
Class Location: BLH General Assignment Rm
Class Schedule: Tuesdays 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Student emails or discussion board questions will receive a reply within two business days.

Course Website: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com>

Office Hours: By Appointment, Virtual Meeting

Catalog Course Description: This course in applied business ethics emphasizes ethical decision making. Using a case-based approach, students learn to identify ethical issues, apply ethical theories, and reach well-reasoned ethical decisions

Course Objectives: This course will have a special focus on Business Ethics and moral decision making through the lens of normative ethical frameworks, with an emphasis on written and oral communication skills.

Prerequisites: 90 or more academic semester credit hours must be completed first.

Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a semester level of Senior. Graduate level students may not enroll.

Student Learning
Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand normative ethical theories
2. Identify ethical issues in case problems.
3. Analyze a case problem using an ethical theory.
4. Reach well-reasoned ethical decisions.
5. Analyze what it means to be a member of a profession.
6. Demonstrate mastery of written and oral communication skills to explain ethical frameworks as applied to cases.

Required Materials:

Text: DesJardins, J. (2020). *An Introduction to Business Ethics, 7th ed.* NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Learning Aids: McGraw Hill “Connect” software application license

Additional
Suggested Software:

We suggest you use additional software tools such as Grammarly and advanced functions in Microsoft Word to support written communication standards.

Blackboard:

Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. This course has been designated as an in-person course. You will have access to all deliverables, instructions, quizzes and supplementary materials in Blackboard.

Time Expectation:

You are expected to spend at least 4 - 8 hours per week for the course. Based on their background, some students may require more time.

Additional
Requirements:

Additional reading materials may be added as new topics are discussed and will be available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

General Course
Requirements:

Every student will need to fulfill these requirements in order to be successful in the course:

1. It is the students’ responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class
2. Students should check the Course Calendar and Announcements systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.

3. Students should stay current with all course assignments, discussions and papers. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either online, offline or during office hours. For any questions about the assignments, a student should contact the instructor before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will **not** be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. All written communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account.
7. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and time. Submission window may close or submissions marked late, even if late by one second. However, ½ credit will be given for assignments submitted late.

Grading Policy:

The final course grade will be based on your performance on the SmartBook concept questions, quizzes, exams, written assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Student Presentation	08%
Written Questions, Participation in Class Discussion	10%
Participation in Smart Book (12 chapters)	12%
Chapter Quizzes (12 chapters)	12%
Writing Assignment # 1	18%
Writing Assignment # 2	20%
Final Exam / Paper on Code of Ethics	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

Student Presentation

In our inaugural class, students will sign up for presentations, two per week beginning in Week 3. Because this is a class focused on writing and critical thinking, students will take the subject matter of the class during their presentation week and create presentation materials like a series of power point slides, but could include other types of materials like foam board posters or handouts to the student “audience”. Those presentation materials should be created with the audience in mind. What concepts do presenters

want the audience to keep in mind as they are talking? Presenting students will be expected to master the subject of the week and be able to field questions from the audience on the subject.

Participation:

Students will be expected to turn in written questions at the beginning of each class for the presenters to review and answer. Participation of students in the “audience” will be graded based on the quality of the question they submit in writing as well as interaction with the Instructor or presenters and with other students in class. Because this course aims to teach critical thinking skills, students should have read the text of the weekly chapter ahead of class and be able to discuss the concepts in that reading. We will be analyzing case studies and applying the concepts in the reading to the cases.

SmartBook Assignments

Questions about the concepts being taught in each chapter will be available online through Blackboard and McGraw-Hill Connect. These are intended to help you retain the concepts being taught and attain a working knowledge of the ethical frameworks for analyzing ethical dilemmas.

Quizzes and Exam:

Chapter quizzes and the final exam will be available online through Blackboard and McGraw-Hill Connect.

Written
Assignments:

Written communications skills are also important in being able to think critically. These skills will be graded as a part of this course through two assigned papers and a potential paper on the Code of Conduct or Code of Ethics you will be subject to during your chosen career path.

Students will a) identify ethical issues found in case studies provided in the text or provided in Blackboard, b) analyze the issue(s) through the ethical frameworks we have studied, and c) provide a resolution to the ethical issue(s). The second paper has a slightly greater effect on the student’s final grade because the feedback given on the first paper should be clearly evident through better analysis and better written communication skills students demonstrate in the second paper.

Code of Ethics Paper:

Similarly, if you choose to write about your Code of Conduct or Ethics rather than take a final exam, you will a) identify one or two ethical issues contained in your Code b) identify the resolution your Code provides on those particular ethical issues and c) analyze the resolution your Code provides to these issues and whether you

agree with that resolution or not. You can start early on this paper and turn it in at any time during the semester.

The length of the papers will need to be as follows:

Written Assignment #1	At least five pages*
Written Assignment #2	At least ten pages*
Code of Conduct/Ethics Paper	At least ten pages*

*including the APA Reference Page with in-text notes or endnotes but not the cover sheet.

Formatting of Written Assignments:

APA formatting is required: 1) Appropriate cover sheet; 2) Times Roman 12 pt Font; 3) 1" margins, double spaced; 4) An APA Reference Page with several appropriate in-text citations or endnotes.

Definition Of a Credit Hour:

"A credit hour is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; at least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in the item above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours. (This information is in accord with federal regulations regarding the definition and assignment of credit hours under section 600.0 and 600.24(f) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.)

"A credit hour represents a unit of measure of instruction consisting of 60 minutes, of which 50 minutes must be direct instruction over a 15-week period in a semester system. Academic administrative units are responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets this requirement. (This is in accord with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board definition.) Transfer credits will be evaluating for equivalency to this requirement. Students should expect to invest a minimum of two hours of additional work for each hour of classroom or faculty instruction per week." 2023-2024 Catalog page 103

Therefore, this course requires 3 hours of class time plus a minimum of 6 hours of homework per week. As we only meet half of our class hours in person, you must complete a minimum of 7.5 hours of work outside of class every week.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- **AACSB Assessment:**

The College of Business received AACSB accreditation in Spring 2023. As part of that ongoing process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:**

This course requires that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

- **Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

- **Academic Learning Center:**

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

- **Counseling/Mental Health Resources:**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

▪ **Emergency Preparedness:**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf>

and

<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

▪ **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

▪ **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:**

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

▪ **Meeting Basic Needs:**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

▪ **Military Affairs:**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

▪ **Religious Observances:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

▪ **The Six-Drop Rule:**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

▪ **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

▪ **Pregnant/Parenting Students:**

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are

encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

▪ **Students' Rights and Responsibilities:**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Key Dates for Spring 2024 Semester:

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>

▪ **Course Schedule:**

Week	Reading Topics / SmartBook Exercises / Quizzes / Exam	Due Dates
Jan 21	CH 1: Why Study Ethics Professor Lecture Turn in Questions	Pgs 9 – 15 (Online); Pgs 1 – 26 (In Paper)
<u>Week 1</u> Jan 20 – Jan 26	SmartBook Exercises – 20 Concepts	01/27/25
	Quiz Chapter 1. – 10 Questions	01/27/25
Jan 28	CH 2: Ethical Theories and Business Professor Lecture Turn in Questions	Pgs 16- 23 (Online) Pgs 27–53 (In Paper)
<u>Week 2</u> Jan 27 – Feb 2	SmartBook Exercises – 25 Concepts	02/03/25
	Quiz Chapter 2 – 16 Questions	02/03/25
Feb 4	CH 3: Corporate Social Responsibility Student Presentation 1 Turn in Questions	Pgs 24-32 (Online) Pgs 54-85 (In Paper)
<u>Week 3</u> Feb 3 – Feb 9	SmartBook Exercises – 23 Concepts	02/10/25
	Quiz Chapter 3 - 28 Questions	02/10/25
Feb 11	CH 4: Corporate Culture, Governance and Ethical Leadership Student Presentation 2 Turn in Questions	Pgs 33 to 39 (Online) Pgs 86 – 103 (In Paper)

Week 4 Feb 10 – -- Feb 16	SmartBook Exercises – 16 Concepts		02/17/25
	Quiz – CH 4 – 16 Questions		02/17/25
Feb 18	<u>In Class Forum on Writing Assignment # 1</u>		
Week 5 Feb 17 -- Feb 23	Due date for written assignment #1		03/02/25
Feb 25	CH 5: The Meaning and Value of Work Student Presentation 3 Turn in Questions		Pgs 40 – 47 (Online) Pgs 104- 126 (In Paper)
Week 6 Feb 24 -- Mar 2	SmartBook Exercises – 22 Concepts		03/03/25
	Quiz – CH 5 – 13 Questions		03/03/25
Mar 4	CH 6: Moral Rights at Work Student Presentation 4 Turn in Questions		Pgs 48 – 56 (Online) Pgs 127–156 (In Paper)
Week 7 Mar 03 -- Mar 09	SmartBook Exercises - 37 Concepts		03/10/25
	Quiz CH 6 – 14 Questions		03/10/25
Mar 11	Spring Break No Class		

Week 8 Mar 10 -- Mar 16	No Assignments		
Mar 18	<u>CH 7: Employee Responsibilities</u> <u>Student Presentation 5</u> <u>Turn in Questions</u>		Pg 57 – 64 (Online) Pg 157 – 188 (In Paper)
Week 9 Mar 17 -- Mar 23	<u>SmartBook Exercises – 25 Concepts</u>		03/24/25
	Quiz CH 7 – 14 Questions		03/24/25
Mar 25	In Class Forum on Written Assignment #2		
Week 10 Mar 24 - Mar 30	Due date for Written Assignment #2		03/30/24
Apr 01	CH 8: Ethics in Marketing – Product Safety and Pricing Student Presentation 6 Turn in Questions		Pg 65 – 69 (Online) Pg 189 – 210 (In Paper)
Week 11 Mar 31 -- Apr 06	SmartBook Exercises – 20 Concepts		04/07/24
	Quiz CH 8. - 14 Questions		04/07/24
Apr 8	CH 9: Ethics in Marketing: Advertising & Digital Marketing Student Presentation 7 Turn in Questions		70 – 76 (Online) 211 – 239 (In Paper)
Week 12 Apr 07 -- Apr 13	SmartBook Exercises - 25 Concepts		04/14/25
	Quiz CH 9- 14 Questions		04/14/25

Apr 15	<u>CH 10: Sustainability and the Natural Environment</u> <u>Student Presentation 8</u> <u>Turn in Questions</u>		Pg 77 – 84 (Online) Pg 240 – 261 (In Paper)
Week 13 Apr 14 -- Apr 20	SmartBook Exercises – 27 Concepts		04/21/25
	Quiz – CH 10 – 12 Questions		04/21/25
Apr 22	<u>CH 11: Workplace Diversity and Discrimination</u> <u>Student Presentation 9</u> <u>Turn in Questions</u>		Pg 85 – 91 (Online) Pg 262 – 289 (In Paper)
Week 14 Apr 21 -- Apr 27	SmartBook Exercises – 24 Concepts:		04/28/25
	<u>Quiz – CH 11 – 14 Questions</u>		04/28/25
Apr 29	<u>CH 12: International Business & Globalization</u> <u>Student Presentation 10</u> <u>Turn in Questions</u>		Pg 92 – 100 (Online) Pg 290 – 312 (In Paper)
Week 15 Apr 28 -- May 04	SmartBook Exercises – 25 Concepts		05/05/25
	Quiz – CH 12 – 13 Questions		05/05/25
May 06	No Class		
Week 16 May 05 -- May 11	Final Exam / Paper on Code of Ethics Due Additional Time to Catch Up on Quizzes or SmartBook Exercises for ½ Credit		05/11/25 05/11/25
May 13	End of Term		

May 16

Grades Due