

PHIL 305: ETHICS & POLICY

(Business Ethics)

California State University, Northridge — Fall 2026

Fully Online · Asynchronous

1 • Instructor & Contact

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Kwon

E-mail: dkwon3420@gmail.com · dkwon@csun.edu

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00 p.m. (PT) via Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 313 106 9567

Course Platform: Canvas (readings, assignments, recorded lectures, announcements)

2 • Course Description

This applied ethics course investigates moral issues that arise in contemporary business, including corporate responsibility, employee rights, stakeholder justice, whistle-blowing, globalization, environmental risk, and the governance of artificial intelligence in commercial contexts. The course begins with classical ethical frameworks—utilitarianism, rights-based theories, justice, and virtue ethics—and applies them to concrete cases drawn from modern capitalism and algorithmic decision-making.

The course emphasizes structured ethical reasoning, careful use of moral frameworks, and the ability to translate philosophical analysis into policy-relevant conclusions.

3 • Required Texts

Students are responsible for having reliable access to both texts below (print, e-book, rental, or library copy) for the full semester. How you obtain access is up to you.

- Richard T. De George, *Business Ethics* (7th ed., Pearson, 2010). ISBN 978-0205731930.
- Bernd Carsten Stahl, Doris Schroeder & Rowena Rodrigues, *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Case Studies and Options for Addressing Ethical Challenges* (Springer, 2022). Open access — free to read or download at <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-17040-9>, also posted on Canvas.

4 • Technology & Course Materials

- Computer with reliable internet access
- PDF reader and word processor
- Zoom (for optional office hours)
- AI-Assistance Log template (downloadable on Canvas)

5 • Assignments & Grading (200 points total)

Component	Qty	Points Each	Counted	Total	Weight
Weekly Short Essays (900–1,200 words)	14	10	Best 13	130	65%

Component	Qty	Points Each	Counted	Total	Weight
Mid-Course Analytical Paper (5–6 pp.)	1	35	1	35	17.5%
Final-Week Synthesis Paper (5–6 pp.)	1	35	1	35	17.5%
Course Total	—	—	—	200	100%

Letter Grade Scale

A	95–100
A–	90–94
B+	88–89
B	85–87
B–	80–84
C+	78–79
C	75–77
C–	70–74
D+	60–69
D	50–59
D–	40–49
F	< 40

6 • Weekly Essay Schedule

Prompt release: Sundays at 6:00 p.m. PT

Due: The following Sunday at 6:00 p.m. PT

(Week 9 hosts the Mid-Course Paper — no weekly essay due.)

Fall 2026 Calendar Alignment (CSUN)

- Weekday instruction begins: Monday, August 24, 2026
- Veterans Day Holiday: November 11 (no instruction; campus closed — essay schedule unaffected)
- Thanksgiving Recess: November 26–29 (no instruction; no essay due)
- Last day of instruction: Friday, December 11
- Final examinations: December 12–18

Week	Essay #	Reading	Topic
1	1	De George Ch. 1	Ethics & Business
2	2	De George Ch. 2	Moral Relativism
3	3	De George Ch. 3	Utilitarianism

Week	Essay #	Reading	Topic
4	4	De George Ch. 4	Rights & Justice
5	5	De George Ch. 5	Virtue Ethics
6	6	De George Ch. 8	Capitalism
7	7	De George Ch. 14	Whistle-Blowing
8	8	De George Ch. 17	Workers' Rights
9	—	—	Mid-Course Paper Due
10	9	Stahl Ch. 2	AI-Enabled Discrimination
11	10	Stahl Ch. 3	AI & Privacy
12	11	Stahl Ch. 4	Surveillance Capitalism
13	12	Stahl Ch. 5	Manipulation & Vulnerability
14	13	Stahl Ch. 6	Safety, Liberty & Accountability
15	14	Stahl Chs. 7–8	Dignity; AI for Good & the SDGs

Note: Stahl Chapter 1 is incorporated into Week 10 lecture material; no separate essay is required.

7 • Major Papers

Mid-Course Analytical Paper (35 points)

- Prompt posted Monday of Week 8
- Length: 5–6 pages (≈1,850–2,200 words)
- Apply one De George ethical framework to a contemporary business case
- Due: Week 9, Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. PT (no late submissions)

Final-Week Synthesis Paper (35 points)

- Prompt posted during Week 12
- Integrate one De George framework with one AI-ethics domain from Stahl (Chs. 2–8)
- Design or critically assess a responsible-AI governance strategy for business
- Due: Finals Week, Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. PT (no late submissions)

8 • Course Policies

8.1 No-Make-Up Policy

No make-ups or extensions are permitted. One weekly essay score is automatically dropped. Both major papers must be submitted on time or will receive a score of zero.

8.2 Late-Add Policy

Course add deadline is the second Sunday after classes begin, September 6, 2026 (11:59 p.m. PT). Policies governing dropped essays apply as stated on Canvas.

8.3 AI-Usage Policy

Generative-AI tools may be consulted only if their use is fully documented in the required AI-Assistance Log. Missing, incomplete, or misleading logs constitute academic dishonesty.

9 • University Policies

This course follows standard CSUN policies on academic integrity, online learning conduct, disability accommodations (DRES), Title IX, and inclusivity. Full policy texts are posted on Canvas.

10 • Getting Help

- Virtual office hours via Zoom for conceptual questions and assignment planning
- Canvas Q&A forum for technical issues and clarifications
- Student resources: Writing Center, Library Research Help, IT Help Desk

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Sun Aug 30, 2026	Assignment Assignment #1	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 6, 2026	Assignment Assignment #2	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 13, 2026	Assignment Assignment #3	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 20, 2026	Assignment Assignment #4	due by 6pm
Sun Sep 27, 2026	Assignment Assignment #5	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 4, 2026	Assignment Assignment #6	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 11, 2026	Assignment Assignment #7	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 18, 2026	Assignment Assignment #8	due by 6pm
Sun Oct 25, 2026	Assignment Mid Course Analytical Paper	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 1, 2026	Assignment Assignment #9	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 8, 2026	Assignment Assignment #10	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 15, 2026	Assignment Assignment #11	due by 6pm
Sun Nov 22, 2026	Assignment Assignment #12	due by 6pm
Sun Dec 6, 2026	Assignment Assignment #13	due by 6pm
Sun Dec 13, 2026	Assignment Assignment #14	due by 6pm
Wed Dec 16, 2026	Assignment Final Synthesis Papers	due by 6pm