



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall 2023**

<b>Course Name:</b>	Ethical Decisions: Ethics Bowl		
<b>Course #:</b>	BUAD 4302-900		
<b>Modality:</b>	Hybrid		
<b>CRN:</b>	12137		
<b>Instructor:</b>	Matthew D. Mangum, J.D., LL.M.		
<b>Email:</b>	matthew.mangum@tamusa.edu <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Office:</b>	BLH 341H		
<b>Phone:</b>	210.784.2310		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays & Wednesdays: 2:00-5:15 And by Appointment		
<b>Class Location:</b>	See JagWire or University Website <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Class Days:</b>	W	Times	5:30-6:45

**Important Notices:**

- In-person Attendance & Online Assignments are Required!
- No recordings of the course will be available.
- This is an Experiential Learning Class.
- This is a Writing Intentional course.

**Required Textbook:** *Rulebook for Arguments* by Anthony Weston, Hackett Publishing, ISBN: 9781624666544.

**Course Website:** tamusa.blackboard.com

**Catalog Course Description:** This course in applied business ethics emphasizes ethical decision making. Students in this course will prepare to compete in the Texas Regional Ethics Bowl. The Ethics Bowl is an intercollegiate ethics competition. In so doing, students learn to identify ethical issues, apply ethical theories, and reach well-reasoned ethical decisions.

**Prerequisites:** 90 or more academic semester credit hours completed.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify ethical issues in case problems.

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<sup>1</sup> Do NOT use Blackboard Messages. Generally, I answer emails same business day. I may not respond to emails during the weekend or on University holidays.

<sup>2</sup> [https://banner.tamusa.edu/prodssb/bwckschd.p\\_disp\\_dyn\\_sched](https://banner.tamusa.edu/prodssb/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched)

- Analyze a case problem using an ethical theory.
- Reach well-reasoned ethical decisions.
- Present well-argued response to an ethical case.

**Grading Policy:**

- **9 Discussion Boards:** Most weeks, students will be assigned a discussion prompt. Discussions will be due at 5:00pm on the Fridays noted on the schedule below. Your lowest Discussion Board will be dropped. Late submissions will be accepted for one additional week, but only at half credit. The average of your Discussion Assignments will be 20% of your course grade.
- **3 Ethics Papers:** Students will complete three case study based ethics papers. For each paper, students must: 1) Identify ethical issues found in the case, 2) Identify an ethical framework for addressing those issues, 3) Provide a detailed analysis of the case using a moral framework, and 4) Provide a resolution to the ethical issue. Details will be provided separately. Due dates are noted on the schedule below. Late submissions will be accepted for one additional week, but only at half credit. The first and second Ethics Papers will be 15% of your course grade each. The third Ethics Paper will be 20% of your grade.
- **1 Reflection Paper:** Students will conclude the term with a paper reflecting on what they have learned about ethics and decision making. Assignment details will be provided separately. The due date is listed on the schedule below. The Reflection Paper is 20% of the course grade.
- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. To be counted as present, you must attend the entirety of the class session. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a ½ absence. Attendance will be 10% of your course grade. Your attendance grade will be the percentage of classes you attended. This means that each class you miss lowers your attendance grade by about 7.14 points. If you must miss multiple classes for medical reasons or if you require an accommodation, please provide documentation through the Dean of Students office or Disability Support Services.
- **Extra Credit:** This is NO extra credit available in this course. [Not even if you email me at the end of the semester asking.]
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Any assignment found to contain plagiarized material or be the result of any academic dishonesty will receive the grade of zero. In addition, two instances of academic dishonesty will result in the grade of F being assigned for the course.

Discussion Board Average	20%
Ethics Paper 1	15%
Ethics Paper 2	15%
Ethics Paper 3	20%
Reflection Paper	20%
Attendance	10%

### Meaning of Letter Grades<sup>3</sup>:

A	Excellent, 90-100
B	Good, 80-89
C	Average, 70-79
D	Passing, 60-69
F	Failure, below 60

### Make up and Late Assignment/exam policy:

Discussion Boards: Late submissions will be accepted for one additional week, but only at half credit.

All Papers: Late submissions will be accepted for one additional week, but only at half credit.

### 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.” 2019-2020 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

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.

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<sup>3</sup> For details, please see the 2021-2022 Catalog, <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/grades/>

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.

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.

Class Conduct and Civility Code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or the end of the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep own copies of all computer files and e-mails till final grade is received.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned OFF and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All 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. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 2 business days (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and time. Submission window may close or marked late, even if late by one second.

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Class Attendance and Participation: A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions, participate in class discussions and problem solving, and visit/contact the instructor during office hours in case of questions or concerns. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important, and may vary considerably based on student background. However, a minimum of two hours of work outside the class is expected for every one hour of class period per week. Reading the

assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

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.

Counseling 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 or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday, to be seen by a clinician. For after-hours support, please call 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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://www.tamusa.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/language-literature-arts/english/writing-center/index.html>. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

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](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about 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@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@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 A&M System 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.

Drop Policy: You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at [www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu). The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website ([www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu)). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

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, diversity, pluralism, 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, or gender expression. 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 helping create 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 has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

#### *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 procedure 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, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, 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 staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

#### Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook)

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts



that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information, please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <http://bit.ly/TAMUSASStudentRR>.

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. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, prohibited use of artificial intelligence, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism and anti-AI software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums, social media, or artificial intelligence is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

Key Dates for Fall 2023 Semester: The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/provost/documents/ay2024-calendar-01112023.pdf>



## Course Schedule:

Date:	Topic:	Read Before Class
30 August	Introduction to Course & the Ethics Bowl	Ethics Bowl Website
	**Discussion 1 Due Friday 1 September at 5:00pm**	
6 September	Ethical Arguments	Ethics Cheat Sheet
	**Discussion 2 Due Friday 8 September at 5:00pm**	
13 September	Ethical Arguments	Ethics Cheat Sheet
	**Discussion 3 Due Friday 16 September at 5:00pm**	
20 September	Corporate Social Responsibility	TBA
	**Ethics Paper 1 Due Friday 22 September at 5:00pm**	
27 September	Case Review & Public Speaking Practice	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Discussion 4 Due Friday 29 September at 5:00pm**	
4 October	Case Review & Practice Rounds	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Discussion 5 Due Friday 6 October at 5:00pm**	
11 October	Case Review & Practice Rounds	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Ethics Paper 2 Due Friday 13 October at 5:00pm**	
18 October	Case Review & Practice Rounds	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Discussion 6 Due Friday 20 October at 5:00pm**	
25 October	Case Review & Practice Rounds	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Discussion 7 Due Friday 27 October at 5:00pm**	
1 November	Case Review & Practice Rounds	Ethics Bowl Cases
	**Ethics Paper 3 Due Friday 3 November at 5:00pm**	
8 November	Final Prep	Ethics Bowl Cases
	*Ethics Bowl—Saturday 11 November—8:00-3:00—St. Mary's Univ.*	
15 November	Post Bowl Debrief	TBA
	**Discussion 8 Due Friday 17 November at 5:00pm**	
22 November	**Thanksgiving Holiday**	
29 November	Professional Ethics	Handout
	**Discussion 9 Due Friday 1 December at 5:00pm**	
6 December	Reflection & Course Wrap-up	TBA
	**Reflection Paper Due Thursday 7 December at 5:00pm**	