

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSTIY

School of Arts and Sciences

Section Designed for: School of Business
Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics

Course Outline

PHIL 305 Ethics and Public Policy

Business Ethics Section

Professor: Frederick B. Mills, Ph.
D.

301-860-3605

SPRING 2010

Office Hours:

T/TH 12:30-01:00PM; 2:30PM-
04:30PM

Wed. 12:00PM - 03:00PM

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MLK 0217

I. Course Description

This course examines the major ethical issues in business, including major trends in ethical theory. The ethical theories examined include the relativist, utilitarian, justice, care, and rights points of view. Students will apply theory to current public policy debate in the area of business ethics.

Credit for the Course.

Three semester hours are awarded upon successful completion.

II. Textbook Required

William H. Shaw and Vincent Barry (2010). Moral Issues in Business. Eleventh Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Business Section of the Washington Post must be read on a daily basis.

Suggested reading: The Sarbanes-Oxley Act and its Implications for the Accounting field. Accountant's Code of Ethics, State of Maryland.

Students are responsible for researching the basic facts on the Enron case.

III. Course Objectives (Outline, Assignments, and Schedule)

Topic Outline	Reading (Shaw and Barry text)\ Read prior to class.	Contact Hours
Jan. 26: Introduction to Course	Syllabus	1hr. 20min.
Jan. 28, Feb. 2: The Nature of Morality and Business Ethics.	Part 1, Ch 1. Case 1.1: Made in the U.S.A.-- Dumped in Brazil, Africa, Iraq...; Case 1.2: The A7D Affair. Case: Enron's Fall and its Impact on the Accounting Field (in class hand out).	2hr. 40min.
Feb. 4, Feb. 9: Normative theories of Ethics. Focus on theories of Immanuel Kant (rights), J. S. Mill (utility), and John Rawls.	Ch 2; Case 2.2, Ford Pinto. Read ahead in text for John Rawls, pp. 128-136.	2hr. 40min.
Feb. 11: Quiz 1. on Normative theories of Ethics.	See next topic for reading.	1hr. 20min.
Feb. 16, Feb. 18: Justice and economic distribution.	Ch 3; Case 3.3: Poverty in America. Updated statistics on poverty given in class.	2hrs. 40min.

Feb. 23, Feb. 25: American Business and Its Basis The nature of capitalism. (Classical defense of capitalism, Adam Smith; Critique of Capitalism, Karl Marx).	Part 2, Ch 4; Case 4.5: One nation, under Wal-Mart. Reading 4.1, Buddhist economics, E. F. Schumacher, pp. 198-203.	2hrs. 40min.
March 2: Quiz 2. on American Business and Its Basis.	See next topic for reading.	1hr. 20min.
March 4, March 9, Corporations and the question of corporate moral agency. Perfect competition versus anti-competitive practices.	Ch 5; Case 5.1: Yahoo in China; Case 5.2: Selling infant formula overseas. Reading 5.4, Paul F. Camenisch, "Business Ethics: On getting to the heart of the matter" p. 283-289.	2hrs. 40min.
March 11: Midterm Exam, Comprehensive.		1hr. 20min.
Spring Break: March 15 - 19		
March 23, March 25: Business and Society Product Safety	Part 3, Ch 6; case 6.3: Sniffing glue could snuff profits; Reading 6.3, Juliet B. Schor, "Why do we consumer so much" pp 356-363.	2hrs. 40min.
March 30: The debate over advertising. Net commerce, ethical issues.	Ch 6. Reading on Net Commerce as Assigned.	1hr. 20min.
April 1: Quiz 3: Product Safety and Advertising	See next topic for reading.	1hr. 20min.

April 6, April 11: The Environment Pollution and depletion, climate change; ecological, rights, and social costs, and justice; government regulation, incentives, pricing mechanisms and pollution permits.	Ch 7; Case of Union Carbide in Bhopal India (as assigned); Case: Debate over gold mining proposal, El Salvador (as assigned). Reading 7.1, Peter Singer, "The place of nonhumans in environmental issues" pp 398-403.	2hrs. 40min.
April 13: Quiz 4, Business and the Environment.	See next topic for reading.	1hr. 20min.
April 15: The Business organization and the people in it. The workplace (hiring, promotions, discipline and discharge, wages, unions).	Part 4, Ch 8; Wal-Mart discrimination case (as assigned); Reading 8.1: Patricia H. Werhane and Tara J. Radin, "Employment at will and due process" p. 450-458.	1hr. 20min.
April 20, April 22: Privacy and working conditions.	Ch 9; Case as assigned.	2hrs. 40 min.
April 27, April 29: Moral choices facing employees. Obligations to the firm; bribes and kick backs; gifts; conflicts of interest; whistel blowing.	Ch 10; Case of Victor DeNoble, a former researcher for Philip Morris (as assigned).	2hrs. 40min.
May 4, May 6: Job discrimination. Affirmative action; comparable worth; sexual harrassment.	Ch 11; Case 11.1, Minority set asides; Reading 11.1, Richard Wasserman, "Defense of programs of preferential treatment" pp 638-642.	2hrs. 40min.
May 11: Review	See Review Guide (in class).	1hr. 20min.

FINAL EXAM	See official exam calendar for date and time.	2 hrs. allowed.
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IV. COMPETENCIES: CPC and NCATE

Summary of CPC topics covered in this course:

Business Ethics, ETH, 27

International/Global Dimensions of Business, INTL, 10

Legal Environment of Business, LGL, 5.

Total: 42.

NCATE Curriculum Themes

Academic Scholar: Objectives 1, 17. The student scholar should become more aware of and appreciate cultural pluralism perspective by the study of moral dilemmas faced by business conducted internationally and by consideration of diversity in the workplace. A critical thinking perspective will be enhanced by the development and use of arguments on both sides of controversial ethical issues. A humanistic perspective will be enhanced by the study of ethics and a critical consideration of moral dilemmas faced by management and workers in the business environment.

Effective Practitioner: Objectives 1, 15.

Technological Applications: Objective 16.

Multiple Forms of Assessment: See grading criteria.

Special Population Perspectives: objective 12

Reflective Practitioner: objectives 1, 2, 8, 14, 17

Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives: objectives 1, 2, 8, 12, 14, 17.

V. Specific learning objectives

Students are expected to demonstrate competency in business ethics by:

1. Comparing the utilitarian, rights, and justice ethical theories.
2. Understanding arguments for and against business ethics.
3. Understanding the profit motive and the notion of the public good.
4. understanding the concept of the corporation and the debate over corporate moral (or social) responsibility.
5. Critically assess the utility of the free market and Marxist criticisms.
6. Defining perfect competition, monopoly competition, and oligopolistic

- competition.
7. Understanding environmental concerns, including the ethics of pollution control, global warming (climate change), and the conservation of depletable resources.
 8. Understanding the ethics of consumer protection and marketing.
 9. Understanding consumer relations and advertising ethics.
 10. Identifying and assessing the business ethics implications of emerging technologies (ambient intelligence, e-commerce and the internet).
 11. Identifying and explaining employee rights, job discrimination, affirmative action, and hiring practices.
 12. Understanding the issue of whistle blowing and conflict of interest.
 13. Defining sexual harassment.
 14. Critically assessing employee relations, including the issue of confidentiality, the firm's duties to the employee and the employee's duties to the firm.
 15. Applying the above competencies to actual cases.

As demonstrated by achieving at least 75% on objective exams, short essays, a midterm, and a final exam.

VI. Student Requirements

Guidelines and Responsibilities:

Members of the class are required to enroll in Blackboard or Angel in order to access announcements, course materials, and email; read the text, handouts, and supplemental materials. The assignments are clearly laid out in the syllabus. Class attendance is required. As regards the attendance, the rules indicated in the "Handbook" will be applied strictly. Roll is taken at each meeting of the class, usually during the first five minutes of the class period. In other words, given our system of accounting, it becomes impossible for the instructor to distinguish between lateness and absence.

Bowie State University does not recognize academic dishonesty as a legitimate means for fulfilling the requirements of a course. Therefore, cheating on anything in this course results in a grade of zero for that particular examination. Plagiarism, which will be explained during the course, is a form of cheating. Proven plagiarism on a paper results in a ZERO and the work may not be redone. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING THE ENTIRE CLASS. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR HEAD DOWN ON YOUR DESK IN CLASS!**

VII. Instructional Modes

Traditional: Teaching modes include WEB based assignments, BlackBoard communications, student participation in group discussion; PowerPoint presentations, lecture, audio-visual materials, writing workshops, and in class debates.

VIII. Grading Methods and Procedures

Methods

- PERIODIC quizzes. Periodic quizzes consist of essays and/or objective questions that measure critical writing skills, reading comprehension of the text and comprehension of class lecture and dialogue. Exam dates will not always be announced in class; **students who are absent are still responsible for class discussion or any materials they missed.**
- ASSIGNED READING. The student is responsible for all readings in the required text, assigned supplemental readings, and for daily attendance of class lectures. If a student misses class, she or he should obtain the assignment from another student in the class, check the syllabus, check Blackboard, or E-mail the instructor.
- MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS. The midterm is cumulative. The final exam is a comprehensive assessment of the student's achievement of the learning objectives. It can be taken only on the officially scheduled date.
- ASSIGNED WORK. All assigned work must be hand delivered to the instructor; essay papers should not be left under doors or with other instructors. Do not E-mail assigned work unless an arrangement for E-mail communication is made ahead of time with the instructor.
- MAKE UP EXAMS. There are no make midterm or final exams. If you miss the midterm and present a documented medical excuse within one week of the midterm, the midterm will not count at all and the final will be valued at 50% of your final grade. If you miss the final exam and present a documented medical excuse you may request, but are not guaranteed, an incomplete grade. If you miss a periodic quiz you must request a make up by email and verify the make up time and date within two weeks of the quiz. All make up quizzes are in essay format.
- LATE TAKE HOME ESSAY WORK. Late take home essay work will lose 10 points credit per business day.

Procedures:

THE GRADING SYSTEM

Average of quizzes: 50%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

TOTAL: 100%

A = 90 - 100, B = 80 - 89, C = 70 - 79, D = 60 - 69, F = below 60.

NOTE: THE MIDTERM GRADE IS CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: AVERAGE OF quizzes (50%) PLUS MIDTERM (50%).

IX. Bibliography

Contemporary

Arnold, Denis (2008). Ethics of Global Business. Blackwell. Boylan, Michael. (2000). Medical ethics. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Beauchamp, T. L., Bowie, N. E. and Arnold, D. G. (2009). Ethical theory and business, eighth edition. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Boatright, John (2008). Ethics and the conduct of business. Fifth Ed. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Brannigan, M. C. (2005). Ethics Across Cultures. Kansas City: McGraw Hill

Brincat, C. and Wike, V. (1999). Morality and the professional life: Values at Work. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Buchholz, R. and Rosenthal, S. (1998). Business ethics: The pragmatic path beyond principles. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Cahn, Steven M. and Kasachkoff, T. (2003). Morality and public policy. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Deshardins, J. R. (1996). Contemporary issues in business ethics. Third Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Gini, A. and Marcoux, A. (2009). Case studies in business ethics, sixth edition. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Hinman, Lawrence. (2005). Contemporary moral issues: Diversity and consensus. Third Ed. NJ: Prentice Hall.

Pierce, Jessica. (2005) Morality Plan: Case Studies in Ethics. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Shaw, W. H. (2007). Business Ethics. Second Ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth

Publishing Company.

Strike, K. A. and Moss, P. A. (2008). Ethics and College Student Life. NJ: Pearson Education, Ind.

Wood, N. B. (2004). Business ethics in uncertain times. New Jersey: Prentice Hall

Selected classical works in ethical theory

Aristototele. Nochomachean ethics.

Baier, Kurt. The moral point of view.

Charlesworth, Max. Bioethics in a liberal society.

Edwards, Jonathan. Freedom of the will.

Erikson, Erik. Childhood and society.

Frankena, W. K. Ethics.

Kant, Immanuel. Groundwork of the metaphysics of morals.

May, Larry and Sharratt, Shari Collins. Applied ethics: A multicultural perspective.

Mill, J. S. Utilitarianism.

Moore, G. E. Principia Ethica.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. Beyond good and evil.

Plato. The Republic.

Russel, Bertrand. Why I am not a Christian and other essays.

Singer, Peter. Practical Ethics.

Williams, Bernard. Morality: An introduction to ethics.

Web sites

For the philosophy documentation center see: [DOC CENTER](#). If you are viewing a print versio of this document, visit <http://www.pdcnet.org/> . This site can also be used as a reference tool.

Some publishers of books on philosophy

For MIT press see: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

For Prentice Hall see: <http://www.prenhall.com>

For Blackwell see: <http://www.blackwellpub.com>

NOTE: The instructor may modify this syllabus to adjust for unforeseen circumstances and will notify the student through an announcement in Blackboard.

X. Important Announcements:

ADA Policy

Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 1328 in the Business and Graduate Studies Building or call Mr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

English Proficiency Examination

After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.

Inclement Weather

During inclement weather tune in to a local radio or television station. Local Media will announce whether the university will open late or be closed, depending on the degree of weather severity. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for additional information.