

## **PHIL 4330-102: Business Ethics**

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Adsett  
Office: Marquette Hall 414  
Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Thursday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
By appointment  
E-Mail: daniel.adsett@marquette.edu  
Class Time: 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM  
Location: David Straz Hall 565  
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Dates: August 28<sup>th</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Required Texts:**

Michael Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2013). Abbreviated as *WMCB*.

Robert Skidelsky and Edward Skidelsky, *How Much is Enough?: Money and the Good Life* (New York: Other Press, 2013). Abbreviated as *HME*.

The titles and locations of other readings can be found in the **Articles** document posted on D2L

### **Description:**

This course examines the claim that there is a moral dimension to business decision-making. Through an understanding of traditional approaches to ethical theory, and discussion of historical and contemporary examples, students will examine and criticize moral issues that arise in business. The course will equip students with a knowledge of philosophical ethics and the critical skills necessary to make thoughtful evaluations of business practices.

### **Course Objectives:**

*By the end of the semester, each student will have . . .*

- An understanding of the general issues likely to be encountered as a business professional
  - *Assessment: Quizzes, Summaries, Mid-Term Essay, Presentation, Final Paper*
- An acquaintance with some major theoretical views about the relation between individuals, corporations, and society
  - *Assessment: Quizzes, Summaries, Mid-Term Essay, Final Paper*
- An understanding of how to apply philosophical analyses to business practice
  - *Assessment: Mid-Term Essay, Presentation, Final Paper*
- An ability to construct arguments defending a moral position regarding business issues
  - *Assessment: Mid-Term Essay, Final Paper*

**Grading:**

Each student will be graded on (1) attendance, (2) ten quizzes, (3) two summaries, (4) one presentation, (5) one mid-term paper, and (6) one final paper. Beginning **September 7<sup>th</sup>** students will receive one point for each class attended. Each individual summary is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points. Each quiz will be worth 5 points for a total of 50 points. There will be one presentation, to be completed with a partner, worth 30 points. The **October 17<sup>th</sup>** mid-term essay will be out of 25 and the final paper will be graded out of 50. For policies concerning missed quizzes, presentations, or a late take-home exam, see the **Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit** below. In all, each student's final grade will be out of 200:

Attendance:	25
Quizzes:	50
Presentation:	30
Summaries:	20
Mid-Term Essay:	25
Final Paper:	50
Total:	200

**Grading Scale (Letter Grade/Percentage):**

A	95-100	C+	76-79
A-	90-94	C	70-75
B+	86-89	C-	64-69
B	80-85	D+	61-63
B-	76-79	D	58-60
		F	0-57

**Important Dates:**

Last Day to Withdraw: September 5<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Term Paper Due: 5:00 PM on October 17<sup>th</sup>

Final Paper Due: 12:00 PM on December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Attendance Policy:**

As already outlined in the **Grading** section, beginning on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, one point will be given for each class attended for a total of 25 possible points. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made beforehand. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. Arrangements can be made with the instructor concerning any assignments (summaries, presentations, papers) completed late due to (1) severe health reasons (more than a cold, flu, or bodily ache), (2) jury duty, (3) religious obligations, or (4) university sanctioned activities and related travel. See the section below for more details concerning policies for late work.

### **Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit:**

Because assignments will be handed in on D2L, there will be no excuse for late assignments. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made beforehand. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. For example, if the first summary is handed in on September 21<sup>st</sup>, it will not be able to receive more than 8/10. If the final paper is submitted late, one point will be deducted for every hour it is late. For example, a final paper submitted at 5:00 pm on December 9<sup>th</sup> will receive a maximum of 35/40. For work towards bonus marks, students must contact the instructor before or on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices:**

Students found using cellphones or computers in class, unless a clear reason is given – for translation, a disability, etc. – will be counted absent for the day.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

The college of Arts and Sciences and department policies on academic dishonesty will be enforced. Students can find the University Honor Code and Academic Integrity Policy here:  
<http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/>

Acts of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

#### ***Cheating***

1. Copying from others for an assignment and/or during an examination, test or quiz
2. Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, an assignment, examination, test, quiz, or answer key without authorization
3. Using unauthorized electronic devices or materials for an assignment, during an examination, test or quiz
4. Communicating answers or providing unauthorized assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz
5. Using unauthorized answers or assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz
6. Offering one's own work to another person, or presenting another person's work as one's own
7. Completing an assignment and/or taking an examination, test or quiz for another student, or having someone complete an assignment, take an examination, test or quiz for oneself
8. Tampering with an assignment, examination, test or quiz after it has been graded, and then returning it for additional credit
9. Outsourcing assignments, papers, examinations, tests, quizzes to fellow students or third parties

#### ***Plagiarism***

1. Using the ideas, creations, or thoughts of another without properly acknowledging the source
2. Paraphrasing or directly quoting a source without credit

#### ***Academic Fraud***

1. Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course, or from previous institutions, without receiving permission from all instructors involved
2. Using purchased answers or selling answers to assignments, examinations, quizzes or papers

**Writing Center:**

The OTT Marquette University Writing Center is located in room 240 of the Raynor Memorial Library. It is open between 9 am and 9 pm Mondays to Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm on Fridays, and 12 pm to 5 pm on Sundays. The satellite location in McCormick Residence Hall is open on Sundays to Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to seek help at the center by either scheduling an appointment or walking in. More information is available at <http://www.marquette.edu/writing-center/>

**Disability/Special Needs:**

Anyone with a confirmed disability or special need should contact me promptly so that appropriate accommodations, if needed, can be provided. The website for the Office of Disability Services is <http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/> and the office phone number is 414-288-1645.

**Schedule:**

Dates		Topics	Readings	Presentations	Summaries and Quizzes
August	29	The Nature of Morality	NA		
	31		NA		
September	5	Normative Ethics	HME 3-14		Quiz I
	7		HME 15-33	Presentation I	
	12	Economic Distribution	HME 33-42		Quiz II
	14		HME 43-70	Presentation II	
	19	Capitalism	HME 71-86		Summary I
	21		HME 86-95	Presentation III	
	26	Corporations	HME 96-107		Quiz III
	28		HME 107-123	Presentation IV	
October	3	Consumers	HME 124-144		Quiz IV
	5		HME 145-167	Presentation V	
	10	The Environment	HME 167-179		Quiz V
	12		HME 180-202	Presentation VI	
	17		HME 202-218		Quiz VI
	19	<b>Mid-Term Break</b>			
	24	The Workplace (I)	WMCB 3-15		Quiz V
	26		WMCB 17-30	Presentation VII	
	31	The Workplace (II)	WMCB 30-41		Quiz VI
	November 2		WMCB 43-55	Presentation VIII	
November	7	Moral Choices of Employees	WMCB 55-72		Summary II
	9		WMCB 72-91	Presentation IX	
	14	Job Discrimination	WMCB 93-107		Quiz VII
	16		WMCB 107-120	Presentation X	
	21	<i>Writing Advice</i>	WMCB 120-130		Quiz VIII
	23	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>			
	28	Alternative Business Structures	WMCB 131-144	Presentation XI	Quiz IX
	30		WMCB 144-162	Presentation XII	
December 5	WMCB 163-179		Presentation XIII	Quiz X	
December 7		WMCB 180-203	Presentation XIV		