

PHIL 4330-101: Business Ethics

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Adsett
Office: Marquette Hall 441
Office Hours: Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
By appointment
E-Mail: daniel.adsett@marquette.edu

Class Time: 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM
Location: Wehr Chemistry 106
Days: Mondays and Wednesdays
Dates: August 29th – December 10th

Required Texts:

Kevin Gibson, *Ethics and Business* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

The location for other readings can be found in the **Articles** document posted on D2L

Helpful Resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, plato.stanford.edu

Past Masters, available online through the Marquette library

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 critique 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, student should have . . .

- An understanding of the general issues likely to be encountered as a business professional
 - *Assessment: Summaries, Mid-Term Exam, Presentation, Final Paper*
- The ability to discuss a number of philosophically informed positions related to these general issues
 - *Assessment: Summaries, Mid-Term Exam, Presentation, Final Paper*
- The ability to stake a position concerning what to do in a concrete situation and to defend this position with clearly articulated, valid and sound arguments
 - *Assessment: Mid-Term Exam, Final Paper*
- The ability to engage in a productive discussion with peers about ethically questionable situations
 - *Assessment: Summaries, Presentation*

Grading:

Each student will be graded on (1) attendance, (2) seven summaries, (3) one presentation, (4) one mid-term exam, and (5) one final paper. Beginning **September 7th** students will receive one point for each class attended. Each individual summary is worth 10 points for a total of 70 points. There will be one presentation, to be completed with a partner, worth 30 points. The **October 31st** mid-term exam will be graded out of 40 while the final paper will be marked 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 216:

Attendance:	26
Presentation:	30
Summaries:	70
Mid-Term Exam:	40
Final Paper:	50
Total:	216

Grading Scale (Letter Grade/Percentage):

A	94-100	C	70-75
AB	88-93	CD	64-69
B	82-87	D	58-63
BC	76-81	F	0-57

Important Dates:

Mid-Term: October 31st

Last Day to Withdraw: November 18th

Final Paper Due: December 14th

Attendance Policy:

As already outlined in the **Grading** section, beginning on **September 7th**, one point will be given for each class attended for a total of 26 possible points. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. Arrangements can be made with the lecturer with respect to any assignments (summaries, presentations, final exams) completed late due to (1) severe health reasons (more than a cold, flu, or bodily ache), (2) jury duty, or (3) 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:

If it is impossible, for one reason or another, to attend class the day an assignment is due, students must either (1) submit the assignment early or (2) scan and e-mail the assignment to the lecturer before class on the day it is due. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. For example, if the second summary is handed in on October 3rd, it will not be able to receive more than 5/10. If the final paper is submitted late, two points will be deducted for every hour it

is late. For example, a final paper submitted at 5:00 pm on December 14th will receive a maximum of 50/60. For work towards a bonus marks, students must contact the lecturer before or on October 31st.

Policy on Electronic Devices:

Students are encouraged not to use electronic devices in class, whether computers or cell-phones, unless a clear reason is given – for translation, a disability, etc.

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:

During the summer, the OTT Marquette University Writing Center is located in room 240 of the Raynor Memorial Library. It is open between 9 am and 7 pm Mondays to Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm on Fridays, and 1 pm to 5 pm on Sundays. The satellite location in McCormick Residence Hall is open on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and 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	<i>Ethics and Business</i>	Articles and Presentations	Summary Deadlines
August	29	Introduction	NA	NA	NA
	31			<i>The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits</i>	
September	5	Labor Day			Summary I
	7	An Overview of Business	1-26	<i>Is Philosophy Relevant to Applied Ethics?</i>	
	12			<i>A Place for Philosophers in Applied Ethics and A Response to Rorty</i>	
	14	Ethics		<i>The Relevance of Philosophy to Business Ethics and Replies to Koehn, De George, and Werhane</i>	
	19	Insights from Ethical Theory		27-52	<i>Virtue Ethics and Contractarianism: Towards Reconciliation</i>
	21		Presentation I		
	26		<i>Cultural Values and International Differences in Business Ethics</i>		
	28		Presentation II		
October	3	The Capitalist System and its Ethical Implications	53-77	<i>Does the Top Really Support the Bottom?</i>	Summary III
	5			Presentation III	
	10			<i>Neoliberalism, Governmentality, and Ethics</i>	
	12			Presentation IV	
	17	Feminism	78-94	<i>Gender Based Barriers to Senior Management Positions</i>	Summary IV
	19			Presentations V & VI	
	24	Responsibility	95-124	<i>Dialogue: Toward Superior Stakeholder Theory</i>	
	26			Presentation VII	
31	Mid-Term Exam				

November	2	Rights	125-147	Presentation VIII	Summary V
	7			<i>CSR and the Debate on Business and Human Rights</i>	
	9			Presentations IX & X	
	14	Autonomy	148-176	<i>The Autonomy of the Contracting Partners</i>	Summary VI
	16			Presentation XI	
	21			Presentation XII	
	23	Thanksgiving Break			
	28	Beneficence	177-202	<i>Do Firms with Unique Competencies for Rescuing Victims of Human Catastrophes have Special Obligations?</i>	Summary VII
	30			Presentation XIII	
December	5	The Environment / Epilogue	203-239	<i>Sustainable Development and the Destruction of the Amazon</i>	
	7			Presentations XIV & XV	
	14	Final Paper Due			