

## PHIL 2050 / BUS 2130: Business Ethics

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Adsett  
Office: Online – Skype, Zoom, or E-Mail  
Office Hours: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Local PEI Time  
Thursdays, and Fridays  
or  
By appointment  
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live:.cid.53b3ba9c64c5b7c6  
Class Time: 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM Local PEI Time  
Location: Zoom  
Days: Mondays and Wednesdays  
Dates: 9 September 2020 – 7 December 2020

### Required Texts:

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

Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers, *What's Mine is Yours: The Rise of Collaborative Consumption* (New York: HarperCollins, 2010). Abbreviated as *WMIY*.

Lynn Stout, *The Shareholder Value Myth: How Putting Shareholders First Harms Investors, Corporations, and the Public* (San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2012). Abbreviated as *SVM*.

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

### Description:

This course is grounded on the assumption that there *is* an ethical dimension to business. From the structure of corporations, the economy, to the glass ceiling, racial discrimination, and the (mis)use of the environment, this course will examine many kinds of moral situations and assumptions operative in business settings. We will also discuss how to make business practices can better contribute to human flourishing in a just, environmentally friendly society.

### 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
- An acquaintance with some major theoretical views about the relation between individuals, corporations, and society
- An understanding of how to apply philosophical analyses to business practice
- An ability to construct arguments defending a moral position regarding business issues

## **Grading:**

Each student will be graded on (1) twelve online contributions, (2) four article summaries, (3) one presentation, and (4) one final paper. Each online contribution will consist of an original post *and* responses to two other students' posts for a total of 50 points. Each individual summary is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points. There will be one presentation, to be completed with a partner, worth 30 points, and one final paper worth 50 points. Further information on how to complete the presentation, summaries, online posts, and final paper is in the **Guidelines** section of this course's **Moodle** site. For policies concerning missed quizzes, presentations, or a late final paper, see the **Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit** below. In all, each student's final grade will be out of 150:

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Online Posts: | 50  |
| Presentation: | 30  |
| Summaries:    | 20  |
| Final Paper:  | 50  |
| Total:        | 150 |

## **Important Dates:**

Last Day to Withdraw: September 18<sup>th</sup>

Final Paper Due: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:59 PM Local PEI Time

## **Attendance Policy:**

Because this is an online course and students will likely be dispersed across different time zones, showing up to the weekly Zoom meeting will not be mandatory. That being said, I strongly encourage everyone to attend. During each meeting we will review the readings, talk about the articles and summaries, discuss our online posts, have our presentations, and get to know each other.

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

Because assignments will be handed in on Moodle, 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 25<sup>th</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 three hours it is late. For example, a final paper submitted at 6:00 am on December 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a maximum of 48/50. For work towards bonus marks, students must contact me before October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Academic Dishonesty:**

Acts of academic misconduct will be taken seriously in this course. Violations of academic integrity will be addressed in accord with the regulations of the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Philosophy. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to the following:

### ***Cheating***

1. Submitting the work of another as one's own
2. Obtaining or attempting to obtain answer keys or questions for an exam, test, or quiz
3. Using unauthorized electronic devices during an exam, test, or quiz

4. Providing answers for an exam, test, or quiz to assist another student
5. Providing one's own work for another to use
6. Completing another student's assignment for him/her or having one's own assignment completed by another
7. Using paper writing companies and other third parties to complete assignments

***Plagiarism***

1. Using the ideas of another without properly citing or sourcing them
2. Putting forward the ideas of another as if they are one's own

***Academic Fraud***

1. Submitting material already used in another course or at another institution
2. Buy or selling answers to assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes

**Disability/Special Needs:**

Anyone with a confirmed disability or special need should contact me promptly so that appropriate accommodations, if needed, can be provided. If you have a disability or suspect yourself to have one, see <https://www.upei.ca/accessibility/disability-information> for more information.

**Acknowledgement of Indigenous Land Use:**

Even though this course will be held online, we need to remember that the physical infrastructure of the University of Prince Edward Island that makes this course possible exists on unceded and unpurchased land of the Mi'kmaq nation. Let's remember this debt we owe to the Indigenous peoples of the Maritimes as we reflect, in this course, on ongoing systems of oppression operative in business settings.

**Schedule:**

| Dates     |              | Topics                           | Readings                  | Presentations       | Summaries   |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| September | 9            | Introduction                     | NA                        |                     |             |
|           | 14           | Normative Ethics                 | WMCB introduction – Ch. 1 |                     |             |
|           | 16           |                                  |                           |                     |             |
|           | 21           | Economic Distribution            | WMCB Ch. 2                |                     |             |
|           | 23           |                                  |                           | Presentations 1-2   | Summary I   |
|           | 28           | Capitalism                       | WMCB Ch. 3                |                     |             |
|           | 30           |                                  |                           | Presentation 3-5    |             |
| October   | 5            | Corporations                     | WMCB Ch. 4 – 5            |                     |             |
|           | 7            |                                  |                           | Presentations 6-8   |             |
|           | 12           | Thanksgiving – No Class          |                           |                     |             |
|           | 14           | Thanksgiving – No Class          |                           |                     |             |
|           | 19           | Inequality                       | SVM Introduction – Ch. 3  |                     | Summary II  |
|           | 21           |                                  |                           | Presentations 9-11  |             |
|           | 26           | Principals and Agents            | SVM Ch. 4 – 6             |                     |             |
|           | 28           |                                  |                           | Presentations 12-14 |             |
| November  | 2            | The Workplace and Discrimination | SVM Ch. 7 – Conclusion    |                     |             |
|           | 4            |                                  |                           | Presentations 15-17 | Summary III |
|           | 9            |                                  | WMIY Introduction – Ch. 2 |                     |             |
|           | 11           | Remembrance Day – No Class       |                           |                     |             |
|           | 16           | Consumption                      | WMIY Ch. 3 – 4            |                     |             |
|           | 18           |                                  |                           | Presentation 18-20  |             |
|           | 23           | The Environment                  | WMIY Ch. 5 – 6            |                     |             |
|           | 25           |                                  |                           | Presentation 21-23  | Summary IV  |
| 30        | Social Media | WMIY Ch. 7 – 8                   |                           |                     |             |
| 2         |              |                                  | Presentation 24-25        |                     |             |
| December  | 7            | Alternative Business Structures  | WMIY Ch. 9 – 10           |                     |             |
|           | 14           | Final Paper Due at 12:00 PM AST  |                           |                     |             |