

PHIL 4330-101: 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: 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM
Location: David Straz Hall 465
Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Dates: January 16th 2018 – May 5th 2018

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) twelve quizzes, (3) two summaries, (4) one presentation, (5) one mid-term paper, and (6) one final paper. Beginning **January 26th** students will receive half of a point for each class attended for a total of 19 points. Each individual summary is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points. Although twelve quizzes are listed in the schedule, because each student's two lowest quiz scores will be dropped, each student's ten best quizzes will be worth 5 points each for a total of 50 points. There will be one presentation, to be completed with a partner, worth 30 points, one mid-term paper worth 25 points, and one final paper worth 50 points. Further information regarding the presentations, summaries, and final paper can be found on D2L. 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 194:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Attendance: | 19 |
| Quizzes: | 50 |
| Presentation: | 30 |
| Summaries: | 20 |
| Mid-Term Essay: | 25 |
| Final Paper: | 50 |
| Total: | 194 |

Grading Scale (Letter Grade/Percentage):

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|
| A | 95-100 | C+ | 76-78 |
| A- | 90-94 | C | 70-75 |
| B+ | 87-89 | C- | 64-69 |
| B | 83-86 | D+ | 61-63 |
| B- | 79-82 | D | 58-60 |
| | | F | 0-57 |

Important Dates:

Last Day to Withdraw: April 13th

Mid-Term Paper Due: 5:00 PM on March 9th

Final Paper Due: 12:00 PM on May 6th

Attendance Policy:

As already outlined in the **Grading** section, beginning on **January 26th**, one half of a point will be given for each class attended for a total of 19 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 February 11th, 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 pm on December 9th will receive a maximum of 48/50. For work towards bonus marks, students must contact the instructor before or on April 13th.

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 | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| January | 17 | The Nature of Morality | NA | | NA | |
| | 19 | | NA | | | |
| | 22 | Normative Ethics | HME 3-10 | | | |
| | 24 | | HME 10-21 | | | |
| | 26 | | HME 21-30 | Presentation I | | |
| | 29 | Economic Distribution | HME 30-42 | | Quiz I | |
| 31 | HME 43-50 | | | | | |
| February | 2 | | | HME 50-60 | Presentation II | |
| | 5 | Capitalism | HME 60-70 | | Quiz II | |
| | 7 | | HME 71-80 | | | |
| | 9 | | HME 80-90 | Presentation III | Summary I | |
| | 12 | Corporations | HME 90-102 | | Quiz III | |
| | 14 | | HME 102-110 | | | |
| | 16 | | HME 110-123 | Presentation IV | | |
| | 19 | Corporations (Continued) | HME 124-132 | | Quiz IV | |
| | 21 | | HME 132-140 | | | |
| | 23 | | HME 140-150 | Presentation V | | |
| | 26 | | HME 150-160 | | Quiz V | |
| | 28 | | HME 160-170 | | | |
| | March | 2 | Consumers | HME 170-179 | Presentation VI | |
| | | 5 | Consumers (Continued) | HME 180-192 | | Quiz VI |
| 7 | | HME 192-205 | | | | |
| 9 | | HME 205-218 | | Presentation VII | | |
| 12 | | Spring Break | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | |
| 19 | | The Environment | WMCB 3-11 | | Quiz VII | |
| 21 | | | WMCB 11-21 | | | |
| 23 | | | WMCB 21-30 | Presentation VIII | | |
| 26 | The Environment (Continued) | WMCB 30-41 | Presentation IX | Quiz VIII | | |
| 28 | | WMCB 43-51 | Presentation X | | | |
| 30 | Easter Break | | | | | |
| April | 2 | | | | | |
| | 4 | The Workplace | WMCB 51-60 | | Summary II | |
| | 6 | | WMCB 60-70 | Presentation XI | | |
| | 9 | The Workplace (Continued) | WMCB 70-82 | | Quiz IX | |
| | 11 | | WMCB 82-91 | | | |
| | 13 | | WMCB 93-104 | Presentation XII | | |
| | 16 | Moral Choices of Employees | WMCB 104-110 | | Quiz X | |
| | 18 | | WMCB 110-120 | | | |
| | 20 | | WMCB 120-130 | Presentation XIII | | |
| | 23 | | WMCB 131-141 | | Quiz XI | |
| | 25 | Job Discrimination | WMCB 141-149 | | | |
| 27 | WMCB 149-162 | | Presentation XIV | | | |
| 30 | WMCB 163-176 | | Presentation XV | Quiz XII | | |
| May | 2 | Alternative Business Structures | WMCB 176-191 | Presentation XVI | | |
| | 4 | | WMCB 191-203 | Presentation XVII | | |