

Philosophy 305: BUSINESS ETHICS

CSU, Northridge

SEMESTER: SPRING 2009
TICKET #: 17469
DAYS/TIME: Thursdays 4:20-6:50
LOCATION: JR119

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dean Pickard
OFF/HRS: ST 506/T 4-6, Th 3:45-4:15
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PRE-REQUISITES: Completion of the lower-division writing requirement.

Description: **Business** can be defined as a commercial activity engaged in as a means of livelihood or profit, or an entity which engages in such activities. Business is a major and vital form of human interaction and interdependency. **Ethics** refers to standards for proper conduct and to the study of such standards. A broader conception of ethics that will guide this course is concerned with what it means to live a good or flourishing human life. Ethics is a branch of **philosophy** which is the activity of very carefully and rigorously questioning our most basic assumptions, habits, and beliefs in order to better understand things. For many philosophers, it is reflection on the value and importance of our engagements in life. So in this course we will examine our assumptions and beliefs about business and about ethics in order to A) better understand proper ethical conduct of business and B) to live better and more flourishing lives as human beings who work and do business. Specific topics will include: rights and social responsibilities, capitalism and democracy, ethical decision making, the conditions of excellence in business, environmental responsibilities, management, product safety, compensation, hiring and dismissal policies, negotiation, conflict of interest, international business and cross-cultural standards for doing business.

Textbooks: Audi, R. *Business Ethics and Ethical Business*. Oxford, 2009.
 Morris, T. *If Aristotle Ran General Motors*. Holt, NY. 1997.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Three essay exams: 75%. 2. In class reports/discussion of case studies and term paper: 25%.

Course Requirements and Grading: A) Three essay exams: 75%. B) In class reports/discussion of case studies and term paper: 25%.

Week	Topics Covered:	Completed Reading	Date
1.	Introduction to Business Ethics		Jan22
2.	The Role and Beauty of Business: The Moral Dimension of/at Work Two Democratic Traditions and Capitalism	Morris p.3-23, Ch 6-7, Audi Ch1	Jan29
3.	Rights and Social Responsibilities Utilitarian, Kantian, Virtue Ethics	Audi Ch 2, Morris 8-9	Feb5
4.	The Constituencies of Ethical Business, Making Ethical Decisions Fertile Soil for Ethical Decisions	Morris Ch 1-5, Audi 3-4	Feb12
5.	Conditions and Pursuit of Excellence in Business	Morris Ch 10-12	Feb19
EXAM 1 DUE: March 5			
6.	Ethical Issues in Contemporary Business: Environment Case Studies	Audi Ch 5	Mar5
7.	Marketing Case Studies	Audi Ch 6	Mar12
8.	Financial Representaiton Case Studies	Audi Ch 7	Mar19
9.	Management: Hiring Policies Case Studies	Audi Ch 8	Mar26
10.	Working Conditions Case Studies	Audi Ch 9	Apr2
11.	Religion in the Workplace Case Studies	Audi Ch 10	Apr 16
12.	NO CLASS APRIL 9: SPRING BREAK		
EXAM 2 DUE April 23			
13.	Managerial Leadership Case Studies	Audi Ch 11	Apr23
14.	Global Business: International Trade and Cross-Cultural Standards Case Studies	Audi Ch 12	Apr30
15.	Nationality, International Business Ethics, and Cosmopolitanism Case Studies	Audi Ch 13	May 7
16.	Last meeting 8-10PM: EXAM 3 DUE		
			May14

Note: A) If you drop the class, do so officially or you could receive an F. **Drop Deadline: 2/6**
 B) You are subject to exclusion if you miss more than 4 hours. Following an absence, find out what you missed.
 C) Late arrival or early departure: sit near the door. After arriving, do not leave and re-enter class except for emergencies.
 D) **Beepers/cell phones** should be turned off **before** entering class.
 E) Please see me first for help or complaints.

This outline is subject to revision. Carefully follow announcements in class or online of any changes.