

SYLLABUS

Course Title: Business Ethics
Course Number: PHIL 305
Ticket Number: 17469

Prerequisites: Completion of the lower-division writing requirement.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Dr. Dean Pickard, email: dean.pickard@csun.edu www.deanpickard.com
Faculty Office: ST 506, Off Hrs: T 4-6, Th 3:45-4:15

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Application of the insights and methods of moral philosophy to a practical examination of contemporary moral problems and normative issues of public policy concerning the conduct and responsibilities of individuals and firms in business and the organization and role of business and economic institutions in society. Regular written assignments are required.

INSTRUCTOR'S 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.

GOALS: 1. Students will acquire or sharpen basic conceptual and ethical tools needed to address moral problems facing business in a pluralistic society. 2. Student will critically assess moral issues in business and prepare to be thoughtful responsible members of the business community.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop and demonstrate their abilities to think critically about ethical issues in business.
2. They will demonstrate the ability to apply the implications of ethical theories to business issues such as environmental responsibilities, management, product safety, compensation, hiring and dismissal policies, negotiation, international business and cross-cultural standards.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are achieved through the Course Objectives (COs). Each SLO is targeted by one or more COs, and each CO targets one or more SLOs. The course activities are designed to meet specific COs, and the student performance during these activities is monitored and assessed. The activities include lectures, tests, quizzes, and examinations. Additional activities such as recitations, critiques, and other comparable occurrences may be included. They are effective means of meeting the COs, hence achieving the SLOs through the COs.

TOPICS COVERED: The SLOs are targeted by the corresponding COs as follows (see next page):

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.	Final 8-10PM: EXAM 3 Due May 14		May14

REQUIRED TEXTS: 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%.

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.