



## **PHILOSOPHY 110: ETHICAL ISSUES IN BUSINESS**

**--CANVAS-based; also using Pearson Publisher's Revel platform--**

**Summer, 2020**

### **Professor**

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### **Office Hours (by phone)**

Summer hour varies: often available M –Th mornings until 11.30 a.m. Other times by appointment.

### **Liberal Arts / General Education Requirement:**

3 s.h. credit; will help fulfill the Humanities requirement

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

This independent study (using CANVAS and the REVEL platform) is an introduction to the process of ethical inquiry and the intellectual challenges of making moral decisions as they arise in the context of contemporary corporate and business policies and practices. Selected readings and critical writing as well as two experiential or creative learning projects are key educational activities. Major thematic areas include such areas as *Ethical Decision Making, Privacy, Discrimination and Affirmative Action, Health and Safety, and International Business Ethics*.

Students will become acquainted with the fundamental concepts and processes of ethical inquiry and will be able to compare and analyze several major

ethical theories: utilitarianism, Kantian-rights and duties, virtue /character –based, and communitarian approaches.

The ability to apply ethical theory, concepts and codes of ethics to contemporary business policies and practices is a central dimension of this study. In addition, all students are encouraged to develop clearly articulated, justified guidelines on important moral issues in business that affect them directly or for which they feel some degree of personal and professional responsibility or concern.

Overall, this course should:

- Stimulate the moral imagination -- provoking the realization that there is an ethical dimension to business policies and practices.
  - Teach recognition of ethical issues and a "value domain" and learn the basic distinction between moral temptations and dilemmas.
- Elicit an understanding of moral obligations and responsibilities and gain critical skills in applying ethical principles and forms of moral reasoning to business-related violations and dilemmas including issues and concerns related to health care and the provision of health care services
- Create awareness that there will always be a degree of ambiguity and disagreement in the moral realm; therefore, toleration and respect for differences and diversity as well as persistence in reducing moral conflict and moral violations while searching for common moral ground are equally important objectives.
  - Encourage students to move beyond expository and interpretive writing and thinking to a critical level of analysis of business case studies and help students develop their own substantive, critically-defended principles and positions on business-related issues and dilemmas.
  - For those with a particular focus on health care and the health care "industry" –broadly defined – you are encouraged to i.) select an interviewee who holds a leadership position in health care management; ii.) choose a film or documentary –for the final exam—which is focused on the health care; and iii.) whenever possible to make connections with your particular career goals and work context.

## Study Resources

***Ethics and the Conduct of Business*** by J.R. Boatright and J. Smith (Be sure to order the latest, eighth edition on-line version.) Note: *If you decide to*

order the hard copy edition, you will still need to initially pay a fee to gain access to the on-line edition in order to take the Chapter quizzes.

From the CANVAS course, click on **Introduction to Revel** and then **Student Registration for REVEL Instructions**. You will be prompted to **Open Revel** to purchase the online textbook (which includes the required course quizzes.) Be sure to only order the 8<sup>th</sup> edition oriented for PHIL.110WA –which coordinates with CANVAS.

Also, one business ethics documentary or movie (acquired at Grafton Library website or via Netflix, purchased or borrow DVD -- only for the Final Exam):

***The Corporation (2003); Walmart: the High Cost of Low Price (2005); Food, Inc. (2009); The Take (2004); and Enron: the Smartest Guys in the Room (2005).*** Or a business ethics Hollywood produced film selected from a listing provided in *Course.Forms.Rubrics*. Examples include *Black Gold, Picture Me, Wall Street, The Truth Can Be Adjusted, and Blood Diamond.*

**MBU CANVAS. Module structure:** this on-line course is divided into eight separate modules -- most consisting of two chapter quizzes (via REVEL) and two designated case study responses (directly posted on the CANVAS course site). Module #6 includes an in-depth ethical issues interview with a business leader of your choice, and Module #7 requires an in-depth ethical analysis of a current, self-selected business related conflict, dilemma, or controversy. Module # 8 is the Final Exam (open book and open notes).

### **On-line Course Schedule for Summer 2020**

Note: most Modules are 10 days duration. If you fall behind, do your very best to keep up-to-date with all of the chapter quizzes first since that schedule is fixed by the REVEL program. There can be a bit more flexibility with your written case studies and other written assignments submitted directly on CANVAS.

May 26- June 04	First Module
June 05 – June 14	Second Module
June 15 – June 25	Third Module (11 days)
June 26 - July 6	Fourth Module (11 days)
July 07 – July 16	Fifth Module
July 17- July 26	Sixth Module
July 27 – Aug. 05	Seventh Module
Aug. 06 - –Aug. 14	Final Exam (Eighth Module, 9 days)

## Evaluation

- twelve brief case study reflections: two for the first five modules and one for modules 6 and 7 32%  
(Note: I will drop the grades for the two case study reflections with the lowest grades.)
- twelve chapter quizzes (multiple choice, open book) 36%  
( Note: I will drop the grades for the two quizzes with the lowest grade.)
- one focused interview with a business leader focused on ethical issues, dilemmas, failures and positive examples 6%
- one critical analysis of a current ethical controversy in Business 6%
- Comprehensive open-book final examination – includes a critical analysis of an ethics-in-business movie or documentary (12 %.) ; a reflective statement on learning in the Humanities (4% pts); and a self-evaluation statement (4%). 20%

## Grading Scale

A	93–100	A-	90–92		
B+	87–89	B	83–86	B-	80–82
C+	77–79	C	73–76	C-	70–72
D+	67–69	D	63–66	D-	60–62

**The MBU Honor Code** applies to all aspects of this study.

Note: for all assignments see the course Blackboard site and view additional details under *Course.Forms.Rubrics*.



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