



PHILOSOPHY 110.W

ETHICAL ISSUES IN BUSINESS Summer, 2021

Professor

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Office Hours

Most weekday mornings until 11.30 a.m. or by appointment.

Liberal Arts / General Education Requirement

3 s.h. credit; will help fulfill MBU's Humanities requirement

Course Goals and Objectives

This on-line study (using Pearson's REVEL delivery system and the CANVAS platform) is an introduction to the process of ethical inquiry and the intellectual - and emotional - challenges of making moral decisions as they arise in the context of contemporary business life. Chapter tests, case study papers, a "business ethics" interview, and an analysis of a business ethics film or documentary are among the major learning activities. Important thematic areas include such areas as *Ethical Decision Making, Privacy, Discrimination and Affirmative Action, Employees Health and Safety, Marketing, 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 key aim is to connect the facts and situations related to business practices and policies with ethical theory and moral reasoning **and** then develop one’s own moral judgement and perspective. In other words, 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, conflicts, and dilemmas including issues and concerns related to health care and the provision of health care services

- gain an awareness that there will always be some 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.

- seek to move beyond expository and interpretative writing and thinking to a critical level of analysis of business case studies and develop one’s own substantive, critically-defended principles and positions on business-related issues and dilemmas.

- and for those with a particular focus on health care and the health care “industry” you are encouraged to choose a film as well as a current issue (for the final exam) which is focused on the “business dimensions” of American health care and whenever possible to make connections with your particular career goals and work context.



KEY ON-LINE STUDY ADVICE

I offer these supportive and practical words of advice in terms of structuring time, overcoming procrastination, and making progress-- largely on your own -in this on-line course:

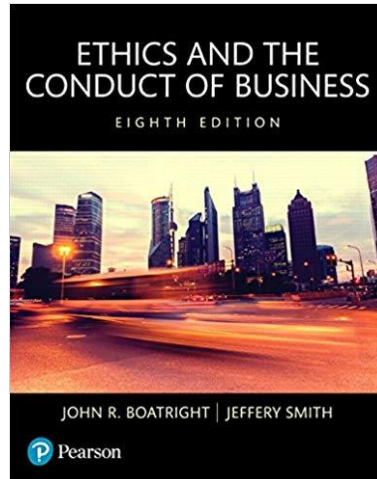
--be self-disciplined and schedule at least one to two hours each day to work on the Module assigned for that given week. You will also need to set aside about six to eight hours on weekends or on free days each week in order to keep-up and learn.

--specifically, I recommend that each week you schedule about 6 hours to read the chapter and to take the chapter quiz for each Module. Then, you should schedule about 4 hours to write your case study or complete the other written assignment. In short, most students need to set aside about 10 hours each week to progress and complete this 3 s.h. course.

--there is no flexibility with the chapter quiz schedule (built into the REVEL program for ***Ethics and the Conduct of Business*** chapters). However, I can provide some flexibility if you must seek an extension on the written case studies and other written reports in the face of a medical issue or family emergency.

-- consider using the non-graded Discussion Board to interact with fellow students. Also, I am available most weekday mornings by-phone if you need guidance or words of encouragement.

--be aware that I do ***not*** evaluate your actual positions or perspectives (although this is always interesting to know). Rather, I am looking for evidence that you've read the material, understood key themes and ideas, are able to draw upon moral reasoning and analysis, and that you can connect ethical theory and moral reasoning with contemporary business issues and case studies .



Study Resources (one text: on-line)

- 1.) ***Ethics and the Conduct of Business*** by J.R. Boatright and J. Smith (Be sure to order Pearson Pub.'s latest, eighth edition on-line version.) Note: *If you decide to order the hard copy edition, you will still need to pay a fee to gain access to the on-line edition in order to take the Chapter quizzes.*
From the CANVAS-based MBU 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 8th edition oriented for ***PHIL.110.W –Business.Ethics*** which coordinates with the CANVAS platform.
- 2.) Also, you will need to have access to one of these two recent documentaries on Netflix: ***The Social Dilemma*** or ***The Great Hack***. Both are outstanding films, and you will watch one or the other in week/Module # 4 and write and submit a critical “ethics review” in week/module #5.
- 3.) Finally, you will choose one other business ethics documentary or movie to watch or analyze as part of your Final Exam (Week/Module #13). Most of these films can be acquired at Grafton Library website or via Netflix, purchased or borrowed. These are examples (not a complete list): ***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)***. Business ethics Hollywood produced films include *Black Gold, Picture Me, Wall Street, The Truth Can Be Adjusted, and Blood Diamond*. (NOTE: videography listing included in Introductory Module.)

Evaluation

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| --six case study analysis papers (Note: I will drop your lowest case study analysis grade) | 24% |
| -twelve chapter quizzes (Note: I will drop your lowest test grade) | 48% |
| --four written reports -- including Bus. Ethics interview, Bus ethics movie critique, analysis of current business issue/controversy; and moral reasoning survey report. | 16% |
| --Final Exam; open book/open notes. Film Critique (8%); Humanities Reflection (2%); & Self-evaluation (2%) | 12% |

Grading Scale

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|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|
| 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 |

Also, most written assignments are graded on a 10 point scale: 9 & 10 = A ; 8 = B; 7 = C; 6 = D; 5 or less = F.

The MBU Honor Code applies to all aspects of this study

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





MBU CANVAS
Summer, 2021, 13 Weeks -- Module structure)

:Modules are 7 days duration. If you fall behind, do your very best to keep up-to-date with the chapter quizzes first since that schedule is fixed by Pearson’s REVEL program, and there is no flexibility. There can be more flexibility with your written case studies and the reports.

| DATE DUE | CHAPTER/TOPIC | ASSIGNMENT |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 5/22 | Chapt 01: Intro | Chapter Test and Case Study paper |
| 5/29 | Chapt.02: Ethical.Decisions | Chapter Test and Report on taking two Moral Reasoning Surveys |
| 6/05 | Chapt.03:Ethical.Theories | Chapter Test. Case Study paper |
| 6/12 | Chapt.04:Whistle.Blowing | Chapter Test. Watch either “The Social Dilemma “or “The Great Hack” |
| 6/19 | Chapt.05: Conflict of Interest | Chapter Test. Critical Report on one of films listed above |
| 6.26 | Chapt.06: Privacy | Chapter Test. Case Study paper |
| 7.03. | Chapt.07: Discrimination | Chapter Test. Report on Current Business Ethics controversy, conflict or dilemma |

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| 7.10. Chapt.08: Employee.Rights | Chapter Test. Select individual for business ethics interview and select film to review/critique for final exam |
| 7.17 Chapt.09: Health and Safety | Chapter Test. Case Study paper |
| 7.24 Chapt.10: Marketing | Chapter Test. Business Ethics interview and report |
| 7.31 Chapt.12: Social.Responsibility | Chapter Test. Case Study paper |
| 8.07 Chapt.14: Int.Business.Ethics | Chapter Test. Case Study paper |
| 8.13 Module.Week.13.Final Exam | Open book; open notes; and self-eval. |

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