



## PHIL 225: Business Ethics

### General Information:

**Term: 2021 Summer Session**

**Instructor: Staff**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Classroom: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Class Sessions Per Week: 5**

**Total Weeks: 5**

**Total Class Sessions: 25**

**Class Session Length (minutes): 145**

**Credit Hours: 4**

### Course Description:

Business ethics, compared to other subjects, is relatively new within both corporations and academia. There have been controversial views about the necessity of ethics and morality in business environments as it is widely accepted that the goal and responsibility of a business is to maximize profits and returns and that laws and regulations should be sufficient to govern business behavior. However, with globalization and the development of new technologies, evidence has shown that we may need business ethics more than ever.

We will introduce in this course the concept and principles of business ethics. Students will learn about the emerging ethical issues in business and how moral values and standards may be involved in the business decision-making process. They will also develop the knowledge and tools needed to better understand and critically analyze why businesses and individuals, when faced with moral dilemmas, make particular decisions as they do.

### Course Format and Requirements:



The primary format of this course is lecture, case study, students' chapter presentation and class discussion. This will be a very fast-paced class. So it is extremely important that students keep up with required readings and participate in class discussions. Pre-reading relevant chapters and assigned materials prior to attending class is strongly recommended. Familiarizing with the course material before class will help to gain a better understanding of the information presented during lecture. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions on things they do not understand. They can either propose their questions during class discussions or ask them when seeing the Instructor during office hours.

**Class Discussion:**

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. The purpose of this component is to help students develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. It is expected that through contributing to class discussion, students will deepen their understanding of the topics covered in class and learn to communicate their views in a logical, concise and professional manner. Students' performance will be recorded and graded.

**Case Study:**

We will discuss four case study examples throughout the course:

WalMart

Arthur Andersen

Starbucks

Financial Crisis of 2007 - 2008

**Attendance:**

Attendance is not mandatory. However, to make the most of this class, regular attendances are expected. Missing a class will cause you to miss a class discussion session, which is essential for success in this course. Not attending classes or constantly arriving late for them will ultimately have a negative impact on your overall performance.



## Course Materials:

1. *The Ethics of Business: A Concise Introduction*, by Al Gini (Author), Alexei Marcoux (Contributor), Rowman and Littlefield, 2011
2. *Practical Business Ethics for the Busy Manager*, by M. Neil Browne (Author), Andrea Giampetro-Meyer (Author), Carrie Williamson (Author), 1st Edition, 2003

## Course Assignments:

### Chapter Presentation:

Students will work in teams of 2 to 3 individuals to present a 25 to 30 minute briefing on the assigned chapter & readings. The presentation will be presented to the class by the Group using Microsoft PowerPoint. Following their presentation, students should be prepared to lead a question/answer Q/A session, which will be included in the presentation evaluation and scoring process. Groups will be determined during the first class session. The Power Point slides must be emailed to the instructor at least a day prior to the presentation date. Presentations dates are in the course schedule.

### 3 Essays:

There will be four case studies throughout the course. Students are required choose 3 case study topics and write 3 essay accordingly. They are expected to write in a professional manner with no spelling or grammatical mistakes. Each essay should be about 800 words in length and carries an equal weight of 15% of the final grade. All work must be handed in before the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Detailed information on essays will be given at the end of Week 1.

### Exams:

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam, which are scheduled to take place at the end of Week 3 and Week 5 respectively. The final exam is cumulative, though emphasis will be placed on material covered after the midterm.

## Course Assessment:

Chapter Presentation	10%
Essay 1	15%



Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale (percentage):

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

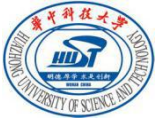
F: Below 60%

### Course Schedule:

Week	Topics	Activities
1	Go through syllabus Introduction to Business Ethics: History of Business Ethics The Importance of Ethics and Morality in Global Business	Readings Class Discussion Guidelines on Essays



	Moral Values and Standards Ethical Dilemmas	
2	Corporate Social Responsibility: Conceptual Bases Stakeholder Relationships Corporate Governance Sustainability	Readings Class Discussion Case Study Essay 1 Chapter Presentation
3	Managing Ethics in Organizations: Emerging Ethical Issues in Business Ethical and Moral Leadership Decision Making Individual Factors Organizational Factors	Readings Class Discussion Case Study Essay 2 Midterm Exam Chapter presentation
4	Ethics in Finance and Marketing: International Financial Markets Questionable Accounting Practices Sales and Marketing Fairness in Pricing Practices	Readings Class Discussion Case Study Essay 3 Chapter presentation
5	Implementing Business Ethics in a Global Economy:	Readings Class Discussion



	Globalization Opportunities and Challenges The Role of Technology Ethical and Environmental Responsibility Course summary	Case Study Chapter presentation Final Exam
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### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Huazhong University of Science and Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

### **Special Needs or Assistance:**

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.