

The University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 329 Lec 60, "Business Ethics"

"It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities" – Josiah Charles Stamp

Summer 2011 (Monday, Jul. 4 - Wednesday, Aug. 17)

Location: SB105

T R 18:00 - 20:45

Instructor: Dr. David Boutillier

Email: david.boutillier@ubc.ca

Office: SS1226

Office Hours: Thursday 17:00-17:50 and by appointment

1 Course Description

A critical and analytical examination of some central moral problems that arise in and for business. Emphasis throughout the course will be placed not only on the details of the particular problems studied but also on the conceptual and other tools needed to understand and resolve or solve such problems. Topics to be discussed will include the moral responsibilities and rights of corporations and their officers, codes of business ethics, and conflicts of responsibilities and rights. This course may not be repeated for credit.

2 Course Requirements

2.1 Course readings

Frederick, Robert (1999). A Companion to Business Ethics. Blackwell Publishers.

2.2 Evaluation

#	Type	Pct. of final grade	Due Date	Length
1	Mid-Term Exam	30%	Jul.28	90 minutes
		Description: This exam covers the material that we will have addressed in the first half of the course. The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions. More information on the nature of the mid-term will be presented in class.		
2	Final Exam	35%	Aug.19 or 20, depending on when the registrar schedules the exam.	120 minutes
		Description: The Final Exam is cumulative, with an emphasis on the material covered after the mid-term exam. More information on the date, location, and format of the final exam will be presented in class.		
3	Group-Work	30%	Throughout the course.	n/a
		Description: The class will be randomly divided into groups. Your group will work together to provide weekly written answers to discussion-questions pertaining to each reading and case studies related to the readings. More information on the group-work component of the course will be presented in class.		
4	Participation	5%	Throughout the course.	n/a
		Description: This portion of your grade is partly based on the quality and quantity of your contributions to in-class discussion, and partly based on the number and quality of your contributions to the group-specific and class-wide online discussion forums on the BlackBoard page for the course.		

3 Format and Procedures

3.1 Attendance and Participation

It is recommended that students attend all classes. Students are also strongly advised to take responsibility for their own learning. Among other things, this means being aware of due dates, keeping up with the reading, and starting assignments well ahead of time. Students are requested to arrive on time for class, and to refrain from texting on their cell phones during class lectures. Please also check regularly electronic notice boards and email communications for information pertaining to the course. Engaged concentration and participation in class is essential to the outcome of your learning experience, so to get the most out of your education it is recommended that you pay attention and think during class lectures.

3.2 Email communications

I have set aside certain times during the week to respond to class-related emails. Please be patient if you do not receive a reply to your email question outside of those times. Questions that require longer responses are best asked in person (after class, or in office hours, for example). If you are not sure whether your question is a good one to ask by email, feel free to try, and I will let you know if I think it would be better for us to discuss it in person.

3.3 Plagiarism

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. It also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a grade of zero on the assignment or failure of the course. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

4 Course Schedule

Changes may be made to this schedule depending on the need for review, etc.

Week	Lecture	Date	Topics, Readings, What's going to happen, Requirements, etc.
1	1	Jul 5	Introduction to the course, watch <i>The Corporation</i> .
	2	Jul 7	Ch.01 "A Kantian approach to business ethics"
2	3	Jul 12	Ch.02 "Utilitarianism and business ethics"
	4	Jul 14	Ch.03 "Business ethics and virtue"
3	5	Jul 19	Ch.04 "Social contract approaches to business ethics: bridging the 'is-ought' gap"
	6	Jul 21	Ch.06 "An outline of ethical relativism and ethical absolutism"
4	7	Jul 26	"Reading Day" (no lectures)
	8	Jul 28	Mid-Term Exam
5	9	Aug 2	Ch.13 "Finance ethics"
	10	Aug 4	Ch.15 "Marketing ethics"
6	11	Aug 9	Ch.19 "International business ethics"
	12	Aug 11	Ch.21 "Employee rights"
7	13	Aug 16	Ch.23 "Business's environmental responsibility"