



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 329 Lec 60
“Business Ethics”

Summer Term 2012

Course Outline

Instructor: David Boutland
Office: SS 1235
Phone: 403-220-6464
Email: cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca

Lectures: MW 12:00-12:45, SB 146
Office Hours: MW 1030-11:30,
or by appointment

Course Description:

The course will examine the philosophical foundations of ethics and ethical conduct, with a specific focus on the theoretical and practical problems encountered in a variety of business disciplines. We will begin the course by introducing a number of prominent moral theories, including utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, social contract theory, ethical relativism, and feminist ethics. The second half of this course is aimed at the application of these moral theories to a number of key ethical issues arising in the contemporary business world.

Texts:

1. *A Companion to Business Ethics*, ed. Robert E. Frederick, Blackwell Publishing, 2002.
2. Additional assigned readings are available through Library e-journals. These are posted as pdf files on Blackboard under ‘External Links’, along with citation information.

Assessment:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
20%	In-Class Quiz #1	July 23
30%	Paper	July 30
20%	In-Class Quiz #2	August 1
30%	Take-home Final	August 15

There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

To pass this class, you must submit all assignments. Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A paper will receive an A- if submitted no later than 24 hours after the deadline; if submitted 24-48 hours after the deadline, it would receive a B+, etc. Late assignments must be submitted by email, and will not receive comments.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported to the Faculty and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment. Even copying one or two sentences constitutes plagiarism.

Grading scale:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	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	60-66	F	59 and below

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the U of C calendar:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual faculty regulations.)
*D+	1.30	
*D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Reading Schedule:

Part 1: Introduction to Moral Theory

- July 4 Class Introduction; What is Business Ethics?
- July 9 Why Be Moral? – Plato (Blackboard); Social Contract Theory – Hobbes (Blackboard), Rawls (Blackboard), Dunfee and Donaldson (*A Companion to Business Ethics*).
- July 11 Utilitarianism – Bentham (Blackboard), Mill (Blackboard), Snoeyenbos and Humber (*A Companion to Business Ethics*).
- July 16 Kantian Ethics – Kant (Blackboard), Bowie (*A Companion to Business Ethics*).
- July 18 Ethical Relativism and Ethical Absolutism – Frederick (*A Companion to Business Ethics*); Feminist Ethics – Derry (*A Companion to Business Ethics*).
- July 23 **Quiz #1**; The Separation Thesis – Harris and Freeman (Blackboard)

Part 2: Ethical Issues in Business

- July 25 Management Ethics – Carroll (*A Companion to Business Ethics*)
- July 30 **Paper Due**; Social Responsibility – Buchholz and Rosenthal (*Companion to Business Ethics*), Gond, Palazzo, and Basu (Blackboard)
- August 1 **Quiz #2**; Marketing Ethics – Brenkert (*A Companion to Business Ethics*); Environmental Ethics – Desjardins (*A Companion to Business Ethics*)
- August 6 **Alberta Heritage Day, No Lecture**
- August 8 Finance and Accounting Ethics – Boatright Ethics (*A Companion to Business Ethics*), Abdolmohammadi and Nixon (*A Companion to Business Ethics*), Gladwell (Blackboard)
- August 13 Business Ethics and the Law – Paine (*A Companion to Business Ethics*), De George (*A Companion to Business Ethics*)
- August 15 Employee Rights – Duska; **Take-home Final Due**

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).