



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 329 – Business Ethics
Summer 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: MW 6:00 – 8:45 pm in SA 129

Instructor: David Boutland

Office: SS 1216

Office hours: Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am, or by appointment

Phone: N/A

E-mail: cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca

Course description:

The course examines 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. By the end of the course, students should understand several prominent moral theories well enough to anticipate, critically assess and respond to some of the critical ethical challenges arising in the contemporary business world. More specifically, we will examine issues and conflicts arising in business that have moral aspects to them, such as the ways employers treat their employees, employees their employers, as well as the ways businesses treat their competitors, their customers, their society, and the environment.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views in business ethics;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex arguments from a range of practical and ethical issues in business;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

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 D2L, along with citation information.

Course Assessment:

There will be an in-class quiz, term paper, discussion/facilitation group project and take-home final exam. The paper will be on assigned topics from the readings. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>. There will NOT be a registrar-scheduled final exam. There is no grade for participation, although students who regularly attend and participate in class will be eligible for a 1% bonus.

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
20%	Quiz	July 15
25%	Group Presentation	Starting July 17
25%	Paper	July 31
30%	Take-home Final	August 15

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 a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. Late assignments can be submitted by email but will not receive comments. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof—downloading papers from the internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, website, or a fellow student—will be reported to the Faculty. Even copying one or two sentences, without citation, constitutes plagiarism.

Quiz (20%)

A quiz will be given during regular class time. A student who fails to show up for the scheduled exam without an acceptable excuse will receive a grade of "F" (0%).

Presentation (25%)

In groups of 2 or 3, you will be required to present and discuss a business case that highlights an ethical issue exemplifying one of the topics discussed in the latter half of the course. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes, followed by a 5-10 minute question period. In addition to the presentation, students are required to submit a 2-3 page write up of their presentation, due in-class one week after presentation date. Case presentations will be held on Wednesdays, starting July 17 and running until the end of the course.

Paper (25%)

You will be asked to choose one of two business ethics cases and write a paper according to the following instructions. The paper should consist of three sections. The first section should present the strongest moral argument for the conclusion that the question at the end of the case should be answered in the affirmative. The second section should present the strongest moral argument for the conclusion that the question at the end of the case should be answered in the negative. The final section should offer an analysis of those arguments, in the process deriving your own conclusion as to what should be done.

The primary goal of the paper is to demonstrate an ability to apply moral theory to particular ethical dilemmas in business. Papers will be evaluated in terms of the strength of all the arguments presented, and the degree to which you understand and apply the moral theories you have chosen.

Take-Home Final (30%)

The take-home final will be made available on the last day of class, Monday, August 12. A hard copy of your final must be submitted to the course dropbox in the Department of Philosophy (Social Sciences Tower, 12th floor) by 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 15. Extensions will be given under special circumstances only.

Participation

Consistent attendance and participation in class is expected. Students that regularly attend and participate in class will be eligible for a 1% bonus on their final grade.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic Calendar:

- A: Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
- B: Good — clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
- C: Satisfactory — basic understanding of the subject matter.
- D: Minimal pass — marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
- F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

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				

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the relevant section K.5 on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca).

Registration and Prerequisite Waivers

If you have questions regarding registration, or are seeking permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. 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 or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>