

PHILOSOPHY 3510, SECTION 2
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

SYLLABUS
Fall Semester 2006

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A. TEXT

Ethics and the Conduct of Business, 5th Edition – Boatright

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHIL 3510 – Business and Professional Ethics (2 credits)

Examinations of selected ethical issues in business and technology, e.g. justice, corporate responsibility, preferential treatment, advertising practices, environmental responsibility, confidentiality and privacy, and government regulation. Prerequisite: Acceptance into a baccalaureate program or permission from upper-division advisor.

C. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Chapter 1 – Ethics in the World of Business

1. Identify the two distinguishing features of business.
2. Describe the levels of decision making.
 - a. Individual
 - b. Organization
 - c. Business System
3. List the three key factors that are involved in business decision making.
 - a. Economic
 - b. Legal
 - c. Moral
4. Explain why the integrated approach (economic, legal, and moral) in business decision making is the most appropriate.
5. Explain why merely following the law of the land may not be morally acceptable in a business environment.

Chapter 2-3 – Welfare, Rights, & Justice/Equality, Liberty & Virtue

1. Define utilitarianism.
2. Differentiate between act and rule utilitarianism.
3. Identify the four different categories of rights in a capitalistic system.
4. Differentiate between distributive, compensatory, and distributive justice.
5. Explain Adam Smith's description of the invisible hand concept.
6. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the cost benefit analysis.
7. Use the eight steps to sound ethical decision making in the case method approach.
8. Explain the basic premise of Kantian Ethics.
9. Define the principle of universalizability.
10. Differentiate between Rawl's Egalitarian theory and Libertarianism.
11. Describe virtue ethics.

Chapter 4 – Whistle-Blowing

1. Define whistle-blowing.
2. Describe how loyalty plays a role in whistle-blowing.
3. Identify at least three conditions of whistle-blowing.
4. List three arguments for or against whistle-blowing.
5. Explain the advantages for an employer to have his/her employees to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Chapter 5 – Trade Secrets and Conflict of Interest

1. Describe a trade secret.
2. Identify six factors used to determine whether information is protected as a trade secret.
3. Explain how critical business information can be a source of property rights.
4. Define a non-competition agreement.
5. Explain the advantages for an employer to have his/her employee's sign a confidentiality agreement.
6. Describe how a company's code of ethics can help avoid a conflict of interest.
7. List and describe four main means for managing conflicts of interest.

Chapter 6 - Privacy

1. Describe three definitions of privacy.
2. Differentiate between the value of privacy using utilitarian and Kantian arguments.
3. Justify the right of privacy for employees in the work place.

Chapter 7 – Discrimination and Affirmative Action

1. Define discrimination.
2. Differentiate between disparate treatment and disparate impact.
3. Identify the five forms of discrimination.

4. Explain affirmative action.
5. List and elaborate on the three utilitarian arguments for affirmative action.

Chapter 8 - Women and Family Issues

1. Define sexual harassment.
2. Justify how sexual harassment is a form of discrimination.
3. Describe four elements of a sexual harassment policy designed to prevent sexual harassment.
4. Explain the principal of comparable worth.
5. List three of the impediments to the advancement of women in the work place.
6. Compare and contrast three general groups of family-friendly programs.

Chapter 9 – Unjust Dismissal

1. Identify and describe three arguments used to justify employment at will.
2. Explain the basic outcomes of the following landmark cases:
 - a. Lochman vs. New York
 - b. Perry vs. Sundermann
 - c. West Coast Hotel vs. Parrish
3. List and give examples where the courts have made three exception to employment at will.
4. Differentiate between an explicit and implicit contract.
5. Describe what is meant by dismissing someone for just cause.

Chapter 10 – Marketing, Advertising and Product Safety

1. Describe how the rights of the producers differ from the rights of the consumers.
2. Compare and contrast the three theories used to determine whether a product is defective (due care theory, contractual theory, and the strict liability theory).

Chapter 11- Occupational Health and Safety

1. Differentiate between safety hazards and health hazards and give examples.
2. Explain how an employee can defend his business from charges of violating workers' rights by arguing their act was not the direct cause of death or injury or that the worker voluntarily assumed the risk.
3. Identify three standards commonly used to determine whether good faith refusals are justified.
4. According to the courts, describe the two defenses to charges of sexual discrimination.

Chapter 12 – Ethics in Finance

1. Explain how churning is an example of a deceptive business practice.

2. Indicate what a Kantian might say about deception in either of its two forms.
3. Compare and contrast fraud and manipulation.
4. Define insider trading and what are the arguments against this practice.
5. Explain how greenmail and golden parachutes are seen as defenses against hostile takeovers and why they are seen to be ethically problematic.
6. Describe what a hostile takeover bid is and consider the Pacific Lumber Case in your response.

Chapter 13 – Ethics and Corporations

1. Identify to whom the corporations have responsibilities.
2. Describe the basic proposition of the classical view of corporate responsibility.
3. Explain how the stakeholder theory differs from the classical view.
4. Identify the main benefits of a corporate ethics program.
5. Describe what should be included in a code of ethics.

Chapter 14 – International Business Ethics

1. Identify examples of improprieties against multi-national companies doing business in foreign countries.
2. Differentiate between absolutism versus relativism.
3. Define bribery and why is the issue of foreign bribery so difficult.
4. Explain the differences between a living wage and the market wage for labor.

General Objectives

1. Define key terms and concepts.
2. Use the eight steps to sound ethical decision-making in business (via case studies).
3. Research and develop a class presentation on an assigned business topic.

D. CLASS HOURS

Philosophy 3510 meets one day a week: Monday, 7:30 – 9:10 p.m.

E. EXAMINATIONS

Five examinations are given in Business and Professional Ethics. All exams will be taken in the classroom. Individuals taking a late exam will be graded on a more difficult grading scheme (see grading section). The lowest test score will not be counted.

F. CASES

Several cases will be assigned to apply theory and critical thinking skills to the objectives of the course.

G. PAPER AND ORAL PRESENTATION

Paper

The scholarly paper will be based on the topic that is assigned to your group. It must show that you have a fair amount of research in a variety of print and online sources. If the topic is fairly broad, you may wish to focus on a limited aspect of the topic.

Structure and length: The paper should have 3 essential parts: first, explain the ethical issues related to the topic you have been researching; second, explain how the ethical theories we have been studying might apply as guidelines in knowing how to respond to the issues; finally, describe your own perspective on the issues you have described.

The paper should be about 4-6 pages in length. It will be judged by the content, that is, the evidence that you have researched and thought carefully about the ethical issues and principles involved with the topic. The paper will also be judged by the organization and clarity of the essay, by the correctness of the style used, and by the correctness of the diction, punctuation, grammar, etc.

Research style: You should use either the MLA or APA style guide for the citations of sources. If you need a review of those styles, visit the Dixie State College Online Writing Lab at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/owl/>. As someone who is seeking a professional degree and profession, you must keep in mind that writing assignments should reflect a degree of professionalism and accuracy beyond that required of lower division students. Errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or style will earn a lowered grade. Late papers will be marked down at least one grade. Those that are one week late will fail. Review the Academic Discipline Policy for a reminder about what constitutes plagiarism and its consequences.

Oral Presentations

Group oral presentations will occur on the evening of December 4, 2006. Each group will take approximately 5-8 minutes to discuss their findings from their scholarly paper.

H. GRADING

Grades will be based on the percentage of total points that the student earns.

1. Exams	60%
2. Cases	20%
3. Paper & Oral Presentations	10%
4. Class Participation	<u>10%</u>

Total	100%		
A	93.0 – 100%	C	73.0 – 76.9%
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	C-	70.0 – 72.9%
B+	87.0 – 89.9%	D+	67.0 – 69.9%
B	83.0 – 86.9%	D	63.0 – 66.9%
B-	80.0 – 82.9%	D-	60.0 – 62.9%
C+	77.0 – 79.9%	F	Below 60%

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **There is no such thing as extra credit in this course.**
2. **Disability Statement: If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability and need accommodations, contact Sherri Dial at the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Service Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility and establish the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.**

Fall Semester 2006

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Monday	28 Aug.	Chapter 1	Read Chapter 1
Monday	11 Sept.	Chapter 2-3	Read Ch. 2-3, Case #1
Monday	18 Sept.	Chapter 4	Test Chapters 1-3, Read Chapter 4
Monday	25 Sept.	Chapter 5	Case #1 due, Read Chapter 5
Monday	2 Oct.	Chapter 6	Read Chapter 6, Case #2
Monday	9 Oct.	Chapter 7	Test Chapters 4-6, Select Topic for Scholarly Paper, Read Chapter 7
Monday	16 Oct.	Chapter 8	Case #2 due, Read Chapter 8
Monday	23 Oct.	Chapter 9	Read Chapter 9
Monday	30 Oct.	Chapter 10	Test Chapters 7-9, Case #3, Read Chapter 10
Monday	6 Nov.	Chapter 11	Read Chapter 11, Case #3 due
Monday	13 Nov.	Chapter 12	Read Chapter 12
Monday	20 Nov.	Chapter 13	Test Chapters 10-12, Case #4, Read Chapter 13
Monday	27 Nov.	Chapter 14	Read Chapter 14, Case #4 and Scholarly Papers due, Oral Presentations
Monday	11 Dec.		Final Exam on Chapters 13 and 14