

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

PHIL 2600*01, 0.5 credits
Winter 2015
Prerequisites: none
M W 9:30 – 10:30
LA 204

Instructor: Andrew Wayne
Office: MACK 331
Office hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:30
or by appointment
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Office hours: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:00

Course Outline

In this course we look ethical issues relevant to business and professional life from a variety of philosophical perspectives. In the first section of the course we study the nature of morality, philosophical theories of ethics, and the relation between justice and the distribution of wealth. In the second section of the course we examine a number of ethical issues relevant to corporations and the capitalist system. In the third part of the course we focus on ethical aspects of working life, including civil liberties in the workplace, insider trading, whistleblowing, and employment equity.

Texts and Course Materials

- Shaw, Berry and Panagiotou, *Moral Issues in Business, 1st Canadian Edition* (Nelson). The textbook is on 2-hour reserve at the McLaughlin Library reserve desk.
- Online materials at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. You are responsible for accessing CourseLink regularly. Some course materials and grading comments will only be available on CourseLink.

Course Requirements

10% Best 10 of 12 in-class quizzes (pass/fail)
10% Best 5 of 11 reading responses (pass/fail)
25% Midterm #1
25% Midterm #2
30% Final exam

Electronic devices

In order to create a positive learning environment for all participants, electronic devices may only be used during lectures and seminars for purposes directly associated with the class: taking notes, quizzes and related activities. Electronic devices must not be used for texting, social media or other non-class activities.

Additional support

Students with special needs or requiring additional support are encouraged to speak with me as early in the term as possible to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.

College of Arts Policy Statements

Please see: https://www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy/resources/standard_statements

Tentative weekly schedule

NOTE: readings and reading responses are to be completed prior to the Monday lecture.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required reading</u>
1. Ethics and justice		
Jan. 5	Introduction	None
Jan. 12	The nature of morality	Chapter 1 and Case 1.1 (pp. 2-21)
Jan. 19	Normative ethics	Chapter 2 (pp. 46-63)
Jan. 26	Justice	Chapter 3 (pp. 80-95)
Feb. 2	Economic distribution	Case 3.3 and Isbister (pp. 98-106)
	<i>Midterm #1 Feb. 4</i>	
2. Capitalism and corporations		
Feb. 9	The nature of capitalism	Chapter 4 (pp. 114-126)
Feb. 23	The ethics of capitalism	Sen and Maitland (pp. 137-149)
Mar. 2	Corporations	Chapter 5 (pp. 150-165)
	<i>Midterm #2 Mar. 4</i>	
3. People and organizations		
Mar. 9	Workplace issues	Chapter 6 (pp. 196-212)
Mar. 16	Ethical challenges in the workplace	Moore and Davis (pp. 303-314)
Mar. 23	Job discrimination	Chapter 9 (pp. 315-325)
Mar. 30	Equality in employment	Abella (pp. 330-338)
	<i>Final exam Apr. 17</i>	