

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

PHIL 2600*01
Winter 2011
M W F 1:30 – 2:20
ROZH 101

Instructor: Professor A. Wayne
Office: MACK 331
Office hours: Wed. 2:30 – 4:00
and by appointment
Email: awayne@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistants

	M. Arciszewski	J. Robertson	
Office:	MACK 360	MACK 325	
Office hours:	M 12:30 – 1:30	F 11:30 – 12:30	and by appointment
Email:	marcisz@uoguelph.ca	jrober10@uoguelph.ca	

Course outline

In this course we look ethical issues relevant to business 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 in business, 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).
- Online materials at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. You are responsible for accessing CourseLink regularly. Some course materials and grading comments may only be available on CourseLink.

Course requirements

14% Reading responses, in-class quizzes and activities
23% Midterm test #1, February 11
23% Midterm test #2, March 25
40% Final exam

7 reading responses are due at the beginning of class as shown on the tentative schedule (below). There will also be at least 10 additional in-class quizzes and activities. Reading responses, in-class quizzes and activities are graded on a pass/fail basis. Each satisfactory item adds 1 percentage point to your final grade, up to a maximum of 14 points. There will be no opportunity to make up these assignments, so if you miss the class you will not get the mark.

Students who miss a midterm test will not have an opportunity to re-write the test at a later date. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a test and provide acceptable documentation (e.g. a medical note), your other midterm and final exam marks will be pro-rated (i.e. 37% other midterm, 49% final exam).

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.

Electronic devices

In order to create a positive learning environment for all participants, this class is conducted in “airplane mode,” which means that certain electronic devices are permitted on board, but with restricted use. Phones and other wireless handheld devices may not be used and must be turned off. Laptop computers may be used solely for purposes directly related to the course, such as note taking, and they must have all send/receive functions (wifi, Bluetooth and network connectivity) disabled. If the instructor or TA detects any student using an electronic device *not* in “airplane mode,” penalties may include a reduction of 1% from the final grade and/or immediate ejection from the classroom.



E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> email account regularly: email is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester **Winter '11** courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday March 11th**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

Tentative Schedule

Date	Required reading	Due
Part I - Moral Philosophy and Business		
1 - The Nature of Morality		
Jan. 10		
Jan. 12		
Jan. 14	Chapter 1	Reading response
Jan. 17		
Jan. 19	Solomon	
Jan. 21		
2 - Normative Theories of Ethics		
Jan. 24	Chapter 2	Reading response
Jan. 26		
Jan. 28		
3 - Justice and economic distribution		
Jan. 31	Chapter 3	Reading response
Feb. 2		
Feb. 4		
Feb. 7	Case 3.3; Ibister	
Feb. 9		
Feb. 11		Midterm test #1
Part II - Capitalist business and its basis		
4 - The nature of capitalism		
Feb. 14	Chapter 4	Reading response
Feb. 16		
Feb. 18		
Feb. 28	Sen; Maitland	
Mar. 2		
Mar. 4		
5 - Corporations		
Mar. 7	Chapter 5	Reading response
Mar. 9		
Mar. 11		
Part III - The organization and the people in it		
6 - Workplace issues		
Mar. 14	Chapter 6	Reading response
Mar. 16		
Mar. 18		
Mar. 21	Moore; Davis (after ch. 8)	
Mar. 23		
Mar. 25		Midterm test #2
9 - Job discrimination		
Mar. 28	Chapter 9	Reading response
Mar. 30		
Apr. 1		
Apr. 4	Abella	
Apr. 6		
Apr. 8		