



PHIL*2600 Business and Professional Ethics

Winter 2021

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 11, 2021

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course examines ethical and evaluative issues relating to business and professional practices, and is intended for students registered in a science or professional program, but without a background in philosophy. Topics to be explored include the nature of values and ethical systems, duties and rights, private and public goods, the consumer movement, social marketing, corporate social accounting, private right and professional responsibility.

Pre-Requisites: 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

In this course we look at 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, whistleblowing, and employment equity.

1.3 Timetable

| Activity Day | Activity Description |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday (except Jan. 12 & Feb. 9) | 5:00 pm - Reading response quiz due in CourseLink |
| Tuesday (except Feb. 9) | 5:00 pm - Video lecture released |

Thursday (except Feb. 11) 11:30 am to 12:50 pm - Zoom class meeting

Thursday 5:00 pm - Questions for next week's reading response quiz released

1.4 Final Exam

There will be a take-home final exam, available 5:00 pm April 13 and due 11:59 pm April 16

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: Andrew Wayne
Email: awayne@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x56787
Office: MCKN 331
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 and by appointment, over Zoom

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant: Brady Fullerton
Email: bfullert@uoguelph.ca
Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistant: Austin Blackwell
Email: ablack11@uoguelph.ca
Office Hours: TBA

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

- **Shaw, Berry and Panagiotou, Moral Issues in Business, 1st Canadian Edition (Nelson) (Textbook)**

The textbook is on 2-hour reserve at the McLaughlin Library reserve desk.

Courselink materials (Other)

<http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

You are responsible for accessing CourseLink regularly. Some course materials and grading comments will only be available on CourseLink.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand, explain and assess major philosophical theories of normative ethics and distributive justice.
 2. Understand the main features of capitalism and corporations, and assess them with respect to these ethical theories.
 3. Understand, explain and assess key ethical issues in the workplace.
 4. Argue successfully for your own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Tentative Schedule

| Week | Topic | Reading |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Ethics and justice | | |
| Jan. 12 | The Ford Pinto | Case 2.1 (pp. 64-66) |
| Jan. 19 | The nature of morality | Chapter 1 (pp.2-18) |
| Jan. 26 | Normative ethics | Chapter 2 (pp. 46-63) |
| Feb. 2 | Justice | Chapter 3 (pp. 80-95) |
| Feb. 9 | <i>No class; take-home midterm available 5:00 pm Feb. 9 and due 11:59 pm Feb. 12</i> | |
| Feb. 23 | Income distribution | Isbister (pp. 98-106) and Case 3.3 (pp. 98-99) |
| 2. Capitalism and corporations | | |
| Mar. 2 | Capitalism | Chapter 4 (pp. 114-126) |
| Mar. 9 | Corporations | Chapter 5 (pp. 150-165) |
| Mar. 16 | The ethics of capitalism | Sen (pp. 137-143) |

| Week | Topic | Reading |
|---|---|--|
| 3. People and organizations | | |
| Mar. 23 | Workplace issues | Chapter 6 (pp. 196-212) |
| Mar. 30 | Ethical challenges in the workplace | Moore and Davis (pp. 303-313) |
| Apr. 6 | Job discrimination and equity in employment | Chapter 9 and Abella (pp. 315-325 and 330-338) |
| <i>Take-home final exam available 5:00 pm April 13 and due 11:59 pm April 16</i> | | |

6 Assessments

6.1 Course Requirements

20% Reading Responses (10 assignments, 2% per assignment, pass/fail)

30% Take-home midterm test submitted in PDF format via Dropbox

50% Take-home final exam submitted in PDF format via Dropbox

Late reading responses and take-home tests will not be accepted.

6.2 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.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

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

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

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

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 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.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be

noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
