



中央民族大学
MINZU UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

Academic Inquiries: Minzu University of China
E-mail: bjiss@muc.edu.cn
Phone: 86-010-68932708

Minzu University of China
BUS 300 Business Ethics
Summer 2020

Basic Information

Class hours: Monday through Thursday, 2 hours each day

Discussion: Friday, 1 hour (60 minutes)

Review Section: Saturday, 1 hour (60 minutes)

Office Hour: 2 hours (According to professors' teaching plan)

Field trip: According to professors' teaching plan

Credit: 4

Total contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Instructor: David Youkey

Course Objectives

This course will provide an introduction to normative ethical theory and its applications in business and economics. Our goal is to develop skills that allow us to evaluate practical circumstances and make decisions through the application of ethical reflection. In order to do so we will briefly review competing schools of normative ethical theory. From here we will examine key themes in contemporary business ethics. To begin, we will spend time with the central question of business ethics: what is a corporation and in what ways is it, or is it not, socially responsible. We will then examine more specific questions regarding the ethics of business and business practice, including employee-employer relationships, the ethics and politics of the workplace, globalization, and environmental responsibility, to name a few.

Textbook

Allhoff and Vaidya. *Business in Ethical Focus*, Broadview Press, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. 2008, ISBN-13: 978-1551116617.

Additional Readings: Available through course website.

Course Requirements and Expectations

You are expected to complete all reading assignments and doing so will greatly improve the likelihood of your success in the course. We will often utilize the text as a resource for discussion in class, so **you are required to bring the readings with you to class (since the readings will be in the textbook or online)**. Don't hesitate to drop by and meet with me to discuss the material, even if you don't have specific questions. I enjoy talking with you all about philosophy. Just arrange to see me during my regular office hours each week.

Assignments and Grading

To do excellent work in this course, you need to be able to do more than just reiterate what various authors have said in your reading or what was said in class. An "A" indicates that you not only understand and comprehend the material, but that you have thought critically about it, fully fleshing out its subtleties and implications so that you can creatively apply the material at many levels. A "B" reflects an above-average understanding of the material without any major errors; however, "B" work tends toward accurate summary. A "C" suggests a struggle with the material that manages an average, comprehension of it but is flawed by some significant misunderstandings or errors. A "D" indicates only a rudimentary comprehension of part of the material with most of the material being



中央民族大学

MINZU UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

misunderstood.

The course grade will be based on two exams (each is worth 32.5%, or taken together they are worth 65% of your final grade), four online quizzes (each worth 6.25%, or all taken together are worth 25% of your final grade, and attendance (worth 10% of your final grade). Each online quiz is designed to be such that it can be completed in 45 minutes to one hour, but any student can take more time if necessary. Each of the two exams will take 90 minutes to 2 hours each to complete. The midterm will be an in-class exam, whereas the final exam will be an online exam designed to take two hours to complete.

Grading Standards

Grade	Score Range	GPA
A+	97-100	4.0
A	94-96	3.8
A-	90-93	3.6
B+	87-89	3.47
B	84-86	3.33
B-	80-83	3.2
C+	77-79	3.07
C	74-76	2.93
C-	70-73	2.8
D+	67-69	2.67
D	64-66	2.53
D-	60-63	2.4
F	<60	0

Exam Format

Quizzes and Exams may consist of multiple choice, Fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and short answer questions. The questions will cover concepts and skills learned during lecture and discussion periods each week.

Participation and Classroom Etiquette

Students are required to attend all classes and participate actively. Students should treat their classroom obligations as they would treat any serious professional engagement. If you have medical or institutional excused absences, you must let me know of them. You are expected to come to class having read the reading and ready to discuss.

Philosophy is at its best when it is a conversation. We have a great deal to learn from each other and I hope you will engage your peers as resources for learning and grappling with the material. Philosophy is *not* a competition to be right. I expect you to respect and support your peers.



Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1

- 1) Introduction to Course. Introduction to Ethical Theory; Deontology. Immanuel Kant: Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals (Website); Salazar: "Kantian Business Ethics" (Optional)
- 2) Utilitarianism. Mill: Utilitarianism (Website); Meeler: "Utilitarianism" (Optional)
- 3) Virtue Ethics. Aristotle: Nichomachean Ethics (Website); Glatz: "Aristotelian Virtue Ethics and the Recommendations of Morality" (Optional)
- 4) Care Ethics. Held: "The Ethics of Care" (Website); Review of Ethical Theory (Online Quiz #1 Available, due 7/18 by 5 pm via email to professor)
- 5) Discussion

Week 2

- 1) Introduction to Major Theories in Political Economy. Locke: Second Treatise on Civil Government; Smith: An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations
- 2) Marx. Das Capital (Website); Estranged Labor
- 3) Nozick. Anarchy, State, Utopia; Rawls: A Theory of Justice
- 4) Nozick and Rawls cont'd (Online Quiz #2 Available, due 7/25 by 5 pm via email to professor)
- 5) Discussion

Week 3

- 1) Corporate Social Responsibility: Foundations of Business Ethics; Vaidya: "Ill-Founded Criticisms of Business Ethics"; Sen: "Does Business Ethics Make Economic Sense?"
- 2) Social Responsibility and Corporate Obligations. Friedman: "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits"; Freeman: "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation"
- 3) Hasnas: "The Normative Theories of Business Ethics: A Guide for the Perplexed"; Brenkert: "Private Corporations and Public Welfare"; Heath: "Business Ethics Without Stakeholders"; Review for Midterm Exam
- 4) Midterm Exam (90-minutes to 2 hours)
- 5) Discussion

Week 4

- 1) Survey of Contemporary Issues in Business Ethics: Employees, Employers, and the Workplace—Working Conditions and Workers' Rights. Superson: "The Employee-Employer Relationship and the Right to Know"
- 2) Working Conditions and Workers' Rights cont'd. Machan: "Human Rights, Workers' Rights, and the 'Right' to Occupational Safety"; Schlosser: "The Chain Never Stops" (Website)
- 3) Justice and Fairness in the Workplace. Wall: "The Definition of Sexual Harassment"; Superson: "A Feminist Definition of Sexual Harassment"
- 4) Justice and Fairness in the Workplace cont'd. *Metro Broadcasting, Inc. v. FCC*, 497 U.S. 547 (1990); Hettinger: "What Is Wrong with Reverse Discrimination?"; Pojman: "The Moral Status of Affirmative Action" (Online Quiz #3 Available, due 8/8 by 5 pm via email to professor)
- 5) Discussion

Week 5

- 1) Global Issues in Business: Globalization. Velasquez: "International Business, Morality, and the Common Good"; Donaldson: "The Ethics of Risk in the Global Economy";
- 2) Globalization cont'd. Donaldson: "Values in Tension: Ethics Away from Home"; Environmental Responsibility. Shrader-Frechette: "A Defense of Risk-Cost Benefit Analysis"; Poff: "Reconciling the Irreconcilable: The Global Economy and the Environment"; Machan: "Environmentalism Humanized" (Online Quiz #4 Available, due 8/12 by 5 pm via email to professor)
- 3) Whistleblowing. De George: "Whistleblowing"; Larmer: "Whistleblowing and Employee Loyalty". Advertising and Desire. Crisp: "Persuasive Advertising, Autonomy, and the Creation of Desire". Arrington:



中央民族大学

MINZU UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

"Advertising and BehaviorControl"

- 4) Course Review for Final Exam (2 hours). (Final Exam released/available online 5 pm on August 13; due by email attachment 12 pm August 14)
- 5) Final Exam Due by 12 pm via email to professor.

Academic Integrity

The student code of ethics for MUC will be in force throughout the course, and all students are expected to comply with its provisions. Any egregious violations of the code, such as cheating on examinations or submitting written work that is not original with the student, will be grounds for failure in this course. You may consult with appropriate university officials for details of the code of ethics.