

Phil 1170 Business Ethics

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: none
3. Prerequisites: none
4. Co-requisites: none
5. MnTC Goals: 6 and 9

Should companies that employ sweatshop labor be boycotted? Who should take responsibility for the financial crisis of 2008? Is bribery morally acceptable if everyone is doing it? Is corporate downsizing morally wrong? Do corporations have any social responsibilities other than maximizing profits? Is capitalism an unjust economic system? These are just a few of the questions addressed in business ethics. In this course, we will examine various efforts to understand the ethical dimensions of capitalism and the conduct of business in society. After an introduction to several major ethical theories and concepts in moral philosophy, we will investigate a variety of ethical issues that arise in the conduct of business.

B. Date last revised: Fall 2015

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Ethical theory (may include Utilitarianism, Kantianism, Virtue Ethics, Libertarianism)
2. The nature and ethical dimensions of capitalism
3. Theories of justice
4. Applications of ethical theory and moral concepts to topics such as international sweatshops, globalization, income inequality and poverty, product safety, advertising, employment issues, consumerism, and other issues.

D. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Summarize and analyze several major ethical theories and theories of justice (9b, 6a, 6b)
2. Apply ethical theories and theories of justice to issues in business (9b, 2b, 2c)

3. Elucidate and analyze the ethical aspects involved in the diverse approaches to issues in business taken by differing social, economic, and political perspectives (9c, 9d, 2b)
4. Formulate, analyze, and critically assess one's own ethical perspectives on issues in business (2d, 6e, 9a, 9d)
5. Formulate and describe responses to ethical problems in business on both theoretical and personal levels (6c, 9e, 9a, 9b, 2a)
6. Use diverse ethical perspectives imaginatively to generate alternative reasoning resulting in alternative solutions to ethical problems in business (2b, 2d, 6b, 9d)
7. Understand the factual, social, and political dimensions relevant to ethical problems in business and evaluate the implications that follow from them (2c, 9b)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning

1. Essays and papers
2. Exams and Quizzes
3. Service Learning
4. Homework Assignments
5. Discussion Projects
6. In-class assignments and participation

7. Special Information None