

PHIL 342: Business Ethics
Spring 2005: Section 68484
TR 3:40 – 4:55 p.m., HSS 69

Contact Information

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Texts: *Ethical Theory and Business*, (seventh edition) ed. by Beauchamp and Bowie

Blackboard Readings [BR] & *The Elements of Style*, by Strunk and White.

Course Description and Course Objectives: In this course we will assess the proper roles of ethics in business and examine some important ethical issues facing individuals, businesspersons, corporate managers, consumers, and public policy makers. We begin by considering the nature of ethical reasoning and ethical theories and their relationships to business. Next, we assess the normative function of business enterprises in market economies. We then discuss the environmental responsibilities of business and, in particular, the issue of genetically modified food. After considering the meaning and value of work, we will consider the rights and responsibilities of employees and questions of diversity in the workplace. Finally, we will move on to specific issues such as marketing, international business, and sweatshops. Some of the specific course objectives are: (i) to understand and appreciate ethical theory in the Western philosophical tradition, (ii) to improve your ability to engage in respectful, well-reasoned discussion, (iii) to learn to fairly interpret and assess diverse arguments and beliefs, (iv) to improve your critical thinking and writing skills through practice, and (v) to work in groups to make moral decisions.

Assignments: Reading and homework assignments will be issued during each class meeting and placed on blackboard. Since this is a discussion driven course it is important that students keep up with the readings and are prepared for class. This practice will reinforce basic material while providing students the opportunity to formulate pertinent questions and comments about difficult material for the next lecture and discussion.

The class will have a midterm exam and a final exam. There is one group project, which consists of students dealing with a moral case and presenting it to the entire class as well as writing a group report. A handout will be provided to explain how to complete this assignment. There will also be quizzes and other short assignments throughout the semester. Some of the quizzes may be on-line, and some of the short assignments may include on-line discussion board participation or video watching.

Grading: Assignments will count toward the final grade in the following manner:

Quizzes and Short Assignments:	30%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Group Project:	30% (mandatory attendance for all projects or -2% off your FINAL grade for each missed group)

Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

A = 91-100	B+ = 87-90	C+ = 77-80	D = 60-69	F = 0-59
	B = 81-86	C = 70-76		

Attendance: Attendance is *not* mandatory, and will *not* be a factor in the determination of final grades. Nevertheless, because of the abstract character of much of the material covered in this course and the fact that discussion is an important component in understanding the material, regular attendance is *strongly* recommended. Additionally, students should make every effort to be on time to class for late arrivals are disruptive and rude to both the instructor and fellow students. Leaving class early is equally disruptive. So, students that need to leave early should notify the instructor at the beginning of class, and sit where it will minimize disturbance.

Late Policy: All late work must be accompanied by written documentation from a health care provider (or other appropriate source; further legitimate excuses may include religious and university obligations) explaining why the student was unable to complete the assignment on time. When possible, I should be informed *before* the assigned work is due. When these conditions are satisfied, appropriate accommodations will be made for the student to complete the missed assignment. When these conditions are not satisfied, the following conditions hold:

1. Quizzes and short assignments cannot be made up.
2. All written assignments and papers are due at the *beginning* of class.
 - (i) 5 points will be deducted from papers received after the beginning, but before the termination, of the class period in which they are due.
 - (ii) For papers received after the end of the class in which they are due, 10 points will be deducted for each 24-hour period following the end of that class. For example, 10 points will be deducted from a paper submitted an hour after the relevant class period, while 20 points will be deducted from a paper submitted 25 hours after the end of the same class. Late penalties will be assessed for the time at which papers are *received*. Received means handed to the instructor, the teaching assistant, or philosophy department staff that signs and writes the time and date on the paper before putting it in a mailbox. It is your responsibility to make sure that papers are turned in on time.
3. Exams cannot be made up.

E-mail & Blackboard: There will be a blackboard component to this class. I will place announcements, homework assignments, and quizzes on blackboard on a weekly basis. I will place course related material on blackboard in PDF format. Thus, you will have to know how to open Adobe PDF files. You can get Adobe Reader for free at the Adobe website. All email correspondences will be done through your UT e-mail account. So, if you have another e-mail account you would like to use, forward your UT mail to that account. If you need help doing this, go to: <http://online.utk.edu>.

Honor Statement: Students must uphold the Academic Honor Statement they signed when they arrived at The University of Tennessee. If you do not remember the Honor Statement, it can be found on page 36 of the *Undergraduate Catalog*. I reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software like 'Turnitin.com' to enforce academic honesty.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disability. Such students must (1) register with, and provide documentation to, the Office of Disability Services (ODS), and (2) submit a letter from ODS stating that such academic accommodations are needed. All relevant documentation should be submitted within the first two weeks of classes or as soon as a disability is identified.

Odds & Ends: Please turn off your cellular phone, pager, PDA, or any other item that may beep or cause a disturbance in class. If you are having trouble with your electronic devices, then leave them at home or ask for help. If your device beeps or rings during class, you will have to ask the class for help. You do not want to have to ask the class for help!

SCHEDULE OF READING & ASSIGNMENTSDS

		Pages
Week I:	R, 13 Jan 05 Introduction and Syllabus	<i>Introductions</i>
Week II:	TR, 18 & 20 Jan 05 “Under the Lion’s Paw” by Hamlin Garland Fundamental Concepts & Problems Utilitarian Ethics	<i>Ethical Reasoning I</i> BR (all) 1-16 17-22
Week III:	TR, 25 & 27 Jan 05 Kantian Ethics Rights Theories and Virtue Theory	<i>Ethical Reasoning II</i> 22-28 22-28
Week IV:	TR, 1 & 3 Feb 05 Feminism & Theories of Justice John Rawls, “An Egalitarian Theory of Justice” Nozick, “The Entitlement Theory”	<i>Ethical Reasoning III & Social Justice</i> 33-38 638-646 646-650
Week V:	TR, 8 & 10 Feb 05 Friedman, “The Social Responsibility of Business is to increase Its Profit” Friedman, “Capitalism and Freedom” Freeman, “A Stakeholder Theory of Modern Corporation” Boatright, “What’s So Special About Shareholders” Velasquez, “Debunking Corporate Moral Responsibility”	<i>The Purpose of the Corporation</i> 50-54 663-669 55-64 75-82 109-121
Week VI:	TR, 15 & 17 Feb 05 FRONTLINE: “The Wall Street Fix” (video) Boatright, “Ethical Issues in Financial Services” Lawrence & Beauchamp, “Enron & Employee Investment Risk” Beauchamp & Green, “The Conventions of Lying... Wall Street”	<i>Finance</i> Library 196-204 251 465-467
Week VII:	TR, 22 & 24 Feb 05 Werhane & Radin, “Employment at Will and DP” Epstein, “In Defense of Contract at Will” Sher, “Diversity” Nagel, “A Defense of Affirmative Action” Justice Thomas’s Dissent	<i>EAW & AA</i> 266-274 274-281 331-339 339-342 BR (sections)

Week VIII:	TR, 1 & 3 March 05	<i>Advertising & The Environment</i>	
	Arrington, "Advertising and Behavior Control"		409-417
	Bishop, "Is Self-Identity Image Advertising Ethical"		417-427
	FRONTLINE: "The Merchants of Cool" (video)		Library
	Bowie, "Morality, Money, and Motor Cars		BB (all)
	DesJardins, "Business' Environmental Responsibilities"		BR (all)
Week IX:	TR, 8 & 10 March 05	<i>Review & Midterm</i>	
	8 March 2005: Make-up and Review Day		
	10 March 2004: Exam I		
Week X:	TR, 15 & 17 March 05	<i>Human Resource Issues I</i>	
	Maitland, "The Great Non-Debate Over International Sweatshops"		579-590
	Arnold & Bowie, "Sweatshops and Respect For Persons"		591-605
	<i>Free Trade Slaves</i> (video)		Library
Week XI:	TR, 22 & 24 March 05	<i>Spring Break</i>	
	SPRING BREAK		
Week XII:	TR, 29 & 31 March 05	<i>Group Projects</i>	
	Carr, "Is Business Bluffing Ethical?"		443-448
	Pynes, "Calling Carr's Bluff"		BR (all)
	Group Projects GROUP 1 and Assigned Readings TBA		
Week XIII:	TR, 5 & 7 April 05	<i>Group Projects</i>	
	Group Projects GROUPS 2 & 3 and Assigned Readings TBA		
Week XIV:	TR, 12 & 14 April 05	<i>Group Projects</i>	
	Group Projects GROUPS 4 & 5 and Assigned Readings TBA		
Week XV:	TR, 19 & 21 April 05	<i>Group Projects</i>	
	Group Projects GROUPS 6 & 7 and Assigned Readings TBA		
Week XVI:	T, 26 April 05	FINAL EXAM REVIEW DAY	

Final Exam: Tuesday, 3 May 2005 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

*** The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. ***