

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline Summer 2016**

Philosophy 2074F – Business Ethics

Intersession 2016

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 --12:00

Classroom: SSC 3028

Instructor: Dean Proessel

Office Hours: by appointment

dproesse@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

It is sometimes said that the phrase “business ethics” is an oxymoron. In this course we will attempt to dispel this popular conception. By working our way through many of the moral issues to which the practice of business gives rise, we will show that the interests of business people and moral philosophers converge. Topics include: What is the nature of moral reasoning? Do corporations have social responsibilities? What social responsibilities do corporations have when operating in the global context? Are there universal ethical principles which can guide the conduct of multinational corporations? Do international sweatshops violate human rights? What are the rights of employees in the workplace? Do employees have the right to due process? Is affirmative action morally justifiable? Is business bluffing ethical? When is advertising ethically questionable? How much information about a product is a corporation morally obligated to disclose to consumers, and how and to whom should this information be disclosed? Can the free market be justified? What is the appropriate level of taxation? What constitutes a just distribution of the goods and services produced by society?

TEXTS

Business In Ethical Focus, An Anthology, edited by Fritz Allhoff and Anand Vaidya, Broadview Press, 2008

OBJECTIVES

In examining the topics and questions mentioned above, students will be expected to achieve the following course objectives:

- Develop an understanding of ethical theory, in particular utilitarianism, deontology, relativism and human rights.
- Develop the ability to reflect on the practice of business from a critical, moral point of view.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing a term paper.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper	30%
Mid-term test	30%
Final Exam	40%

Submission Guidelines

All written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.

The penalty for late papers is 3% a day.

No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are permitted to be used in class for purposes of note-taking and accessing class-related materials. Any devices required for reasons of accessibility are also permitted. Use of recording devices or transcription software must be approved in advance by the instructor.

2. Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

3. Medical and Non-Medical Absences

Students seeking accommodations for medical illnesses should consult the university Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (available here:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>). For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation to it. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Assignments worth less than 10% missed as a result of an unanticipated (and documented) medical absence can be submitted late for full credit with the approval of the instructor.

Accommodations for *justified* non-medical (non-emergency) absences that interfere with the completion of assignments worth less than 10% can be arranged only through

consultation with the instructor at least **two** weeks before the assignment deadline. In cases where such accommodations are granted, assignments will typically be allowed to be submitted before (not after) the originally stipulated deadline.

4. Support Services

For information about support services, please visit the web sites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.