

A-3-X

Can explain the emergence, maintenance, or evolution of an economic or political system from an ethical perspective.

H-2-X

Can understand an ethical problem and can analyze the effectiveness of ethical institutions in addressing it.

F-X

Can apply business ethics to a contemporary business process or global issue.

Course Objectives

At the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Identify and understand different moral and ethical frameworks.
- Analyze a problem utilizing at least two different ethical systems.
- Explain the emergence, maintenance, or evolution of an economic or political system in light of ethical systems discussed.
- Apply business ethical systems to contemporary business processes.
- Discriminate among various ethical systems and analyze them from a global perspective.
- Understand the key principles governing capitalist, socialist and communist society.
- Examine the role and impact of business activities in a free competitive society with an emphasis on corporate responsibility and business ethics.

Course Deliverables

You will be asked to: 1) read the assigned readings for each class and locate additional material on your own; 2) participate in group discussions; 3) contribute to your learning team's discussions; 4) submit a written report and do an individual presentation.

LEARNING TEAMS

Working in learning teams to work together on class material will enhance your learning experience in this course. The class will be divided into teams during the first session. For some class sessions, your team will be responsible for leading the class discussion on a section of material reviewed.

REQUIRED READING

There are two books we will use in the class. You are expected to read both books.

Books

W. Michael Hoffman, Jennifer Mills Moore, ***Business Ethics: Readings and Cases in Corporate Morality*** (McGraw-Hill, 2000), 4th Edition - ISBN# 0072483482.

Lisa H. Newton, Maureen M. Ford, ***Taking Sides: Clashing View on Controversial Issues in Business Ethics and Society*** (McGraw-Hill /Dushkin, 2005), 10th Edition - ISBN# 0073527270.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Class participation involves attendance and contribution to class activities and discussions. This recognizes attendance and preparation for each session. The success of this course depends on your participation, which includes sharing your perspectives and experiences with the class. The more you participate, the more fun and valuable the course will be for all of us. Of course, being present physically and cognitively is basic to full participation. If a session is inexcusably missed, your final grade will be adversely affected. If you must miss class, please notify the instructor and communicate with another member of your team before and after class session and attend to your responsibilities accordingly.

EVIDENCE THE STUDENTS WILL SUBMIT:

You will demonstrate your competence through your class participation, individual presentation and your work with your learning team. You will demonstrate your achievement of your competence by writing a (10-12 page) paper. The students registered for one competence will write a (6 page) paper. The paper should identify some of the problems and ramifications of business ethics in the society and in the workplace and how we can apply these choices in an organizational framework and maximize both societal and business objectives and goals.

You will also demonstrate your competence by doing a short class presentation (10-15 minutes) on how selected ethical frameworks directly impact our lives from a business or social perspective. The presentation should also focus on the decisions made to cope with the opportunities and vulnerabilities resulting from these challenges.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments should follow the accepted practices of standard English spelling, grammar and usage. All papers should have at least four cited references. All papers should contain a conclusion in which you offer your solutions or recommendations to the problems identified in the paper. All papers should be computer generated, double spaced, with one-inch margins, 10 or 12 point typeface and pages should be numbered.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

At the end of the course, you will be asked to assess your own learning. We will use your assessment in the class's assessment of your work and that of your class members. The criteria for assessing your reading include: How regularly and carefully did you complete the reading assignments? How well did your questions and comments in class or in your discussions show that you understood the reading materials?

The criteria for assessing your participation in class discussion will include: Did you attend all sessions? How well did your questions and comments advance your own learning and support the learning of others in the class?

The criteria for assessing your contribution to your learning team will include: How well did you support the learning of the other members of the class? How actively involved were you in your class and team discussions, and information gathering?

The criteria for assessing your written report/presentation include: How well does your written report/presentation show that you understand the issues of the course? To what extent are you able to integrate the relevant literature and references into your written report /presentation? To what extent are you able to apply the understanding and awareness you acquired to your own decision making process? Is a bibliography or reference page included in your report or presentation? How clearly and concisely are you able to express your ideas creatively and concisely in your writing/presentation?

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Attendance/Class Participation	40
Written Report	30
Team Participation	20
Individual Presentation	10

FACULTY BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Bridgette Mahan is a visiting faculty member at SNL. She was formerly First Vice President, Manager, Corporate Staff Audit at First Chicago NBD Bank (Bank One). She has twenty years of internal and external accounting/auditing and management experience including project management and systems software/audit training. Ms. Mahan has a MBA and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

CLASS SCHEDULE:

The following is a tentative schedule of the subjects to be covered each week of the term. The schedule is subject to revision based on the composition of the class, the evolution of ideas and perspectives in the class sessions.

Session 1

- Introductions
- Overview of course and Review of Syllabus
- Business Ethics - Overview
- General Ethics terminology -Defined
- Review of first assignment
- Select teams

Session 2

- Team Discussion: The Ethics of Economic Systems, Business Ethics, Part 1, c 1, Taking Sides, p 1-21
- Class Discussion: Ethics and Business Decision Making and Corporate Governance, Business Ethics, c 3 and 6, Taking Sides, p 22-65,
- Class Discussion: Final Paper Topics
- Presentations: Student

Session 3

- Time available for preparation of team presentations.

Session 4

- Team Discussion: Cost-Benefit Analysis (Business Ethics, p 90-101); Role of Corporate Governance (Taking Sides, p. 40-65)
- Class Discussion: The Corporate Responsibility Debate, Business Ethics, Part 2, c 4, Taking Sides, p 269-286, 304-331
- Presentations: Student

Session 5

- **Assignment Due: Outline of Paper**
- Team Discussion: Business Ethics, c 5, *Can a Corporation Have a Conscience?* P 184-194
- Class Discussion: "But We Work There" - The Corporation and the Employee (Business Ethics, Part 3, c 7 and 9-10) Executive Compensation (Taking Sides, p 186-203)
- Presentations: Student

Session 6

- Team Discussion: Corporate Whistleblowing, Business Ethics, c 8, Taking Sides, p 148-164
- Class Discussion: The Corporation in Society, Business Ethics, Part 4, c 11-12, Taking Sides, p 222-248
- Presentations: Student

Session 7

- Team Discussions: Preparation for Presentations on August 5th: Case analysis (Cases TBA)
- Class Discussion: The Corporation in Society, Business Ethics, c 13-14, Taking Sides, p 269-281
- Presentations: Student

Session 8

- **Assignment Due: Team Case Analysis Presentations**

Session 9

- **No in-class meeting (tentative)**
- Complete work on Final Paper
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Session 10

- **Assignment Due: Final Paper**
- Class Review
- Class Evaluations completed.
- Complete any remaining Student or Team Case Analysis Presentations