** FINAL VERSION **

BUSINESS ETHICS (26:620:661)
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

Spring 2018, Room 202, 1WP
W 9-11.50 am
Professor D. E. Warren
1 WP, Room 1042
p: 973.353.5734
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as an introduction to the multi-disciplinary academic literature on business ethics and requires no previous exposure to business ethics or philosophy. The course begins with leading theories in business ethics, which are then explored through various disciplinary applications (management, accounting, marketing and supply chain). Relevant psychological and sociological influences in decision-making are addressed throughout the course and special attention is paid to conducting empirical research on ethics-oriented topics. Guest speakers provide insight into various topics. By the end of the course, class participants will have developed their own business ethics empirical study or normative analysis which will draw upon an ethical aspect of their discipline.

GRADING

10% Normative analysis of an article from underlying disciple (Feb 14th)
10% Research Question & Draft of Literature Review for Final Project (Apr 4th)
20% Discussion Leader (1 session) & Class Participation
60% Final Presentation & Paper (paper is due a week after the final presentation)

NORMATIVE ANALYSIS

Choose one empirical article from your discipline (possibly something written by your advisor) and try to identify the implicit normative aspects of the article (roughly 1 page). Does the article seem to suggest that certain individual or firm behaviors are good or bad? Does the article consider implications of research for society?

RESEARCH QUESTION & DRAFT OF LITERATURE REVIEW

In preparation for the final project, students will submit a paper containing a research question and an overview of the literature review for the final project. This assignment is meant to encourage students to start exploring their specific interests, make progress in writing their final papers, and receive feedback early in the writing process.

DISCUSSION LEADER & PARTICIPATION

While students are expected to participate in all sessions, they will also lead one session alongside a classmate. In the role of discussion leaders, students are expected to compare and contrast articles (not merely provide summaries) and encourage participation and exploration of topics by their classmates. Effective discussion leaders ask good, clear questions that help spark class discussions.
READINGS
Most required readings will be posted to Blackboard or provided in class. ‘Further Readings’ are not required. They provide direction for those who plan to build on a topic for their final paper.

To guide your interpretation of the readings, students should consider the following questions:

Theory Papers: How does the theory relate to research in your discipline? On what points would the scholars agree/disagree? Is the theory persuasive?

Empirical Papers: What is the main research question? Is the question persuasively answered? What was the nature of the research design? Did the authors use the best measures? What would you recommend as a follow-up study?

**** TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ****

Jan 17  Philosophical underpinnings of Business Research

Jan 24  Social Contracts, Stakeholders & Rights

Further Reading:


**Jan 31**  
**Kant and Utilitarianism – Guest: Tobey Scharding**


**Further Reading:**


**Feb 7**  
**Virtue Ethics - Guest Miguel Alzola**  


*Further Reading:*

*Feb 14*  
**Normative vs. Descriptive Theory**  
**DUE: Normative Analysis**

*Further Readings:*
Schreck, P. van Aaken, D. & Donaldson. 2013. Positive economics and the normativistic
fallacy: Bridging the two sides of CSR. *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 297-329.

**Feb 21**  
The Ethical Organization  

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**Further Reading:**


**Feb 28 Ethical Leadership Guest speaker: Joanne Ciulla [JUNTING]**

Ciulla, J. Ethics and effectiveness: The nature of good leadership.


*A administrative Science Quarterly*

Kurt, E.D. 2008. What, after all, is leadership? 'Leadership’ and plural action. *The Leadership Quarterly*


**Further Reading:**


**Mar 7 Predictors of Un/Ethical Decision Making [OYKU]**

Kim, T-Y. & Kim, M. 2013. Leaders’ moral competence and employee outcomes: The


Further Reading:


Mar 14  Spring Break

Mar 21  Deviance  Guest speaker: Jeff Furman  [LINDA]

Further Reading:

Mar 28  Ethical Decision Making Models


**Further Reading:**


**Apr 4** CSR and Stakeholder Reactions - Guest: Lisa Lewin [Xuanye]

**DUE: Literature Review**


Further Reading:


**Apr 11**

Measuring Performance (Financial and Social) [KEYI]


Further Reading:


**Apr 18** Artificial Intelligence, Responsibility & Work


**Further Reading:**


**April 25** FINAL PRESENTATIONS

**May 2** FINAL PAPERS DUE