RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

BUSINESS ETHICS
(26:010:685)

Fall 2013, Room 358 1WP
W 2:30-5:20 PM

Danielle E. Warren
1 WP, Room 1042
p: 973.353.5734
dwarren@andromeda.rutgers.edu

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 (Sept 18)
10% Research Question & Draft of Literature Review for Final Project (Nov 1)
20% Discussion Leader (1 session) & Participation
60% Final Presentation Paper (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. Many sessions include a list of further readings on the topic but such reading is not required nor is it exhaustive. ‘Further Readings’ are meant to 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 ****

September 4  Philosophical underpinnings of Business Research


September 11  Leading Theories in Business Ethics


**September 18** Normative vs. Descriptive Theory

**DUE: Normative Analysis**


**September 25** Behavioral Ethics Models


**October 2** The Ethical Organization


October 9    The Ethical Organization (con’t)


October 16    Individual Predictors of Un/Ethical Behavior


Oct 23    Marketing & Supply Chain


Oct 30  Guest: Mike Barnett – CSR & Stakeholder Theory

Nov 6  Guest: Ann Buchholtz – Research ethics

Nov 13 Guest: Kristin Smith-Crowe – Behavioral ethics

Nov 20 Guest: Wayne Eastman – Critical business ethics

Dec 4  Guest: Miguel Alzola – Virtue Ethics

December 11 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

December 18 FINAL PAPERS DUE

Further Readings:


Ruedy, N., & Schweitzer, M. 2010. In the moment: The effect of mindfulness on ethical