

Business and Professional Ethics BUS 365

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This is required for Accounting, Business and Communication majors. This class fulfills one Liberal Learning requirement for all except Business majors.

Textbook: None

Course Description: Simply put, ethics involves learning what is right or wrong, and then doing the right thing – but “the right thing” in business is not nearly as straightforward as that. Most ethical dilemmas in the workplace are not simply a matter of “Should Bob steal from Jack” or “Should Jack lie to his boss?” In the daily scramble to get ahead, earn a profit, and outwit competitors, some people don’t play by the rules. Media attention and popular writings seem to always detail the misdeeds, but there are many more companies that behave! It is important to consider both the positive business models for their value as well as review the issues of controversy as ways to explore ethical issues. What is corporate ethical decision-making and behavior? How do others emulate it?

Classic cases will be explored and expect lively discussion and class interaction on a variety of in-class ethical case studies.

Course Objectives: Using critical thinking and thoughtful ethical analysis each will example and contemplate the following:

1. Formal and informal ethical guidelines and theories
2. Exploration of one’s personal ethical standards and values profile
3. Consideration of methods of addressing and resolving business and professional ethical dilemmas
4. Review and assess organizational ethical effectiveness
5. Determine ethical ways to select and develop employees
6. Examine current day business practices
7. Personal experiences within one’s own professional life

Learning Strategies: Students will fulfill course objectives through:

1. Individual reading and reflection on assignments
2. Discussion, debate and case study review and analysis
3. Exploration of strategies that impact an organization’s ethical culture
4. Small group project and presentation (assigned by instructor) that includes in-depth exploration of a significant ethical issue

Assignments and Grading: Attendance is critical to learning and understanding in this class. There is a significant amount of discussion, debate and case study exploration. A portion of your grade is based on your attendance and in class participation. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. Active participation means being involved in the class and demonstrating via discussion contributions that you completed the assignments in advance of class. All members of the class are expected to participate in all class projects. Failure to participate in delivering results, is a loss of at least 10 points.

Instructor will provide a detailed class assignment on first night of class.