

Ethics and Business

(PHILOSOPHY 3150)

Spring Semester, 2010

Instructor: *Ray Peace*

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Office Hours: *2:45-3:05 TR; or by appointment*

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Required text: ***TAKING SIDES: BUSINESS ETHICS AND SOCIETY, by Newton and Ford, 8th edition, McGraw-Hill (Dushkin) Pub.***

Recommended optional text: A PRIMER ON BUSINESS ETHICS by Machan and Chesher; Rowman and Littlefield Pub.

Welcome to the class. Please keep this sheet and be aware of the information on it, as the semester progresses.

The principle Course Objectives, Outcomes and Goals are to:

1. Investigate and examine contemporary topics, controversies, and themes central to business ethics (including corporate responsibility; whistle-blowing; profits vs. social responsibility; etc.), to obtain a more complete perspective on the issues.
2. Base our investigations on a careful study of some key ethical theories, in order to apply the principles and concepts emerging from our look at ethical theory to problems and case studies in business ethics
3. Apply critical, comprehensive, and analytical thinking to various issues in Ethics and Business, with careful analysis of the arguments we encounter.
4. Recognize how inquiries into business ethics apply to ‘real-world’ circumstances and to reflections on the meanings of life.
5. Further develop, expand, and refine our viewpoints, in view of our examination and assessment of issues in business ethics.

Grading:

Your overall grade will be based primarily on the average of the graded papers, tests, and projects we will plan to have. There are no “makeup” papers or tests, in case you happen to miss one. Instead, one grade will be “dropped”, when the averages are figured. For example, if we have 6 major grades (tests, papers, etc.), you would add the total points together and divide that

total by 5, to figure your average. Your letter grade would be based on a “straight scale” (90 or above is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.)

You are encouraged to take every test and quiz, and to do all the assignments, thereby giving yourself a better opportunity on your grade. Your attendance is a factor in your grade (see below). Your participation is also a factor in your grade, so you are encouraged to contribute thoughtfully to class discussion. There is a penalty for any work that is turned in after the announced due date.

Attendance:

2 points will be added to your average for perfect attendance; 1 point for missing one or two days. After 2 days, 1 point for each day missed will be taken off your total average. Please be punctual, attentive and courteous, and try to contribute to class discussion. Also, either make sure any cell phones are turned off prior to classtime, or avoid bringing them to class. An absence on the day a guest lecturer is scheduled will count as a double cut.

Roll:

Sign legibly only your name (do not Print). It is your duty to sign the roll each day. If you leave before class is dismissed, your name is deleted from the roll. If initially the roll gets by you, remember to sign it before you leave. If you arrive late or leave early, indicate which and the time on the roll sheet.

Assignments:

Check the assignment listing in BlazeView. Recommended approach to assigned readings:

Read the selection prior to class and be ready to discuss it; after class check back through the selection in conjunction with notes taken in class. It is best to keep up on a daily basis, and to review the notes you take in class the same day they are given, making corrections and adding clarifications. .

Students with Special Needs:

If you are a student with a documented disability that might require classroom accommodations or modifications, you should contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities (here’s a link: <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>). The Access Office office is in Farber Hall (former Student Health building). The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty). Also, inform your instructors about this need at the beginning of the semester. .

Other Links: You can access many philosophy-related websites by using this [link to the homepage of the Department of Philosophy at Valdosta State University](#)

Course Evaluations: Student evaluations are extremely important in helping faculty members plan and revise their courses. The online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI) evaluation forms can be accessed via BANNER and completed in a period of time to be announced near the end of the semester. You will only complete evaluations online for the classes that are part of the online project; other classes may still require you to complete a scantron form in class. Please take the time to complete this important

evaluation during the designated period. If you do not do so, you may not be able to access the final grade for this class until a later time.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Investigate topics and controversies central to business ethics in order to obtain a more complete perspective on crucial issues.
2. Base your investigations into issues about business ethics on a careful study of some key ethical theories.
3. Examine a number of problems and case studies in view of the principles and concepts that emerge from our look at ethical theory, thereby applying critical and comprehensive thinking with careful analysis of the arguments we encounter.
4. Further develop, expand and refine our particular and group viewpoints in regard to current and classical issues in business ethics.
5. Use logical and critical reasoning techniques in the examination of various problems and issues in business ethics.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Major by enabling students better to:

1. Incorporate philosophical positions in oral and written communications
2. Critically outline and analyze a philosophical question.

[And here is a link to the Valdosta State University General Education Outcomes;](#)

In this course we will emphasize #'s 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.