

BUS 240
BUSINESS ETHICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: None

This course introduces contemporary and controversial ethical issues facing the business community. Topics include moral reasoning, moral dilemmas, law and morality, equity, justice and fairness, ethical standards, and moral development. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of their moral responsibilities and obligations as members of the workforce and society. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of the course requirements, the student will be able to:

- a. Define business ethics.
- b. Describe the evolution of business ethics.
- c. Describe major ethical perspectives.
- d. Understand and apply an ethical decision-making framework.
- e. Understand social responsibility from several dimensions.
- f. Understand how the organization influences ethical decision-making.
- g. Examine how significant others influence ethical decision-making.
- h. Examine opportunity and conflict.
- i. Develop an effective ethics program.
- j. Understand international business ethics.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. An Overview of Business Ethics
 - A. Business Ethics Defined
 - B. Social Responsibility and Business Ethics
 - C. The Development of Business Ethics
 - D. Why study Business Ethics?
 - E. Framework for Studying Business Ethics

- II. Ethical issues in Business
 - A. Foundation of Ethical Conflict
 - B. Classifications of Ethical Issues
 - C. Ethical Issues Related to Participants and Functional Areas of Business
 - D. Recognizing an Ethical Issue

- III. Applying Moral Philosophies to Business Ethics
 - A. Moral Philosophy Defined
 - B. Moral Philosophy Perspectives
- IV. Social Responsibility
 - A. The Economic Dimension
 - B. The legal Dimension
 - C. The Ethical Dimension
 - D. The Philanthropic Dimension
- V. An Ethical Decision-Making Framework
 - A. Ethical Issue Intensity
 - B. Individual Factors: Stages of Cognitive Moral Development
 - C. Corporate Culture
 - D. Significant others
 - E. Opportunity
 - F. Business Ethics Evaluations and Intentions
 - G. Using the Ethical Decision-Making Framework to Improve Ethical Decisions
- VI. How the Organization Influences Ethical Decision Making
 - A. Organizational Structure and Business Ethics
 - B. The role of Corporate Culture in Ethical Decision-Making
 - C. Group Dimensions of Organizational Structure and Culture
 - D. Implications of Organizational Relationships for Ethical Decisions
- VII. The Influence of Significant Others in the Organization
 - A. Interpersonal Relationships in organizations
 - B. Organizational Pressures and Significant Others
 - C. Leadership
 - D. Significant others and Ethical Behavior in Business
- VIII. The Role of Opportunity and Conflict
 - A. Opportunity
 - B. Conflict
- IX. Development of an Effective Ethics Program
 - A. An Effective Ethical Compliance Program
 - B. Codes of Ethics and Compliance Standards
 - C. High-Level Manager's Responsibility for Ethical Compliance Programs and the Delegation of Authority
 - D. Effective Communication of Ethical Standards
 - E. Establishing Systems to Monitor, Audit, and Enforce Ethical Standards
 - F. Continuous Improvement of the Ethical Compliance Program
 - G. The Influence of Personal Values in Business Ethics Programs
 - H. The Ethical Compliance Audit

- X. International Business Ethics
 - A. Ethical Perceptions and International Business
 - B. Culture As a Factor in Business
 - C. Adapting Ethical Systems to a Global Framework: Cultural Relativism
 - D. The Multinational Corporation
 - E. A universal Set of Ethics
 - F. Ethical Issues Around the Globe

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

Ferrell, O.C., and Fraedrich, John. Ethical Decision Making and Cases. Fifth Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.