

BUSINESS ETHICS

TEXT : Ethics and the Conduct of Business, John R. Boatright

DESCRIPTION :

The objective of this course is to provide the students with the opportunity to think about the moral problems and questions which they face as individuals, as well as the moral issues facing today's business world, in order to help them determine and express the reasons for their moral decisions. The course will attempt to clarify ethical choices by bringing to light a variety of ethical value systems and principles in application to a variety of situations and issues, in order to evaluate them for their clarity and consistency. In this way, it is hoped that students will be better prepared to analyze moral dilemmas and respond to them according to objective criteria.

INTENDED OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE:

Students completing this course will be able to:

- Recognize the ethical assumptions embedded in the student's own ideas and the ideas that permeate the world of business.
- Apply ethical theory to evaluate those assumptions.
- Use ethical theory to justify responses to dilemmas in a business context.
- Recognize the interconnection between personal ethics and professional ethics.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

In determining your grade for this class equal consideration will be given to three areas of performance:

I. REFLECTION OR SERVICE (Two Options)**Option 1 – Essays:**

You will be given three essay assignments during the term. These essays should be typed, double-spaced. The length should be 3 pages minimum (about 850-900 words) - 5 pages max.

The essays will be due one week after the subjects have been handed-out. The essays are due **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. ASSIGNMENTS HANDED IN LATE WILL BE GRADED DOWN.** Together the essays will constitute 60% of the final grade.

Option 2 – Service to Community

You will volunteer a total of 20 hrs. of time to a community agency. At the end of the term you will submit a journal describing the work you have done, focusing on the ethical implications of the experience.

II. QUIZZES

Short quizzes will be administered regularly throughout the term. They will be either take-home quizzes or in-class quizzes. The quizzes will cover the reading material assigned for that particular day or the material covered during the previous class session. The quizzes will be in a short essay (½-1 page) format. They will not be announced prior to the day they are given. Taken together, the quizzes will constitute 40% of the final grade.

III. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION :

Attendance will be taken on a regular basis and participation in class discussions will be noted. Even though no percentage rating for participation can be given for this, the importance of your contributions to class discussions cannot be stressed enough. Although non-participants will not be graded down, regular participants will be graded up.

On the other hand, three absences (or one 3 hour class) can result in a 10% reduction of the final grade.

In order to be assured of an “A” in this class a student will have to:

- 1) read the assignments for each class and perform consistently well on the quizzes,
- 2) write solid essays following the instructions concerning content and format that will be thoroughly explained by the instructor (see essay instructions attached),
- 3) participate in class discussions in such a way as to contribute to those discussions.

Students are expected to arrive at class on time and remain in class until dismissed by the instructor. If, for whatever reason, you plan to leave during the class session, please let me know before class begins.

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Note : The evaluation requirements listed above may be subject to changes or additions depending on the discretion of the instructor.