

## Syllabus for Business Ethics, Spring 2008

**Professor: Dr. Heather Salazar**

**Class:** Sec 1: MW 2:30-3:45; Sec 2: W 6-8:45

**Office Hours:** MW 1:20-2:20, M 5-6pm, W 4-6pm, R 10-12 and by appointment

**Office:** Academic Building 306, (251) 380-4183

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**Class Website:** <http://faculty.shc.edu/hsalazar>

### **Class Description:**

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In *Business Ethics*, we will focus on business-related actions that are in apparent conflict with morality and examine them from multiple perspectives. One of the themes that runs throughout this class is that business and ethics can be compatible and even complimentary with one another. The class will take place in two stages. The first part of the class will be concerned with the different ethical theories that can be applied to decision-making in business. The second portion will be devoted to examining specific issues and areas of business that are controversial. (Note: there is a prerequisite for this class of having completed PHL 101: Logic.)

### **Objectives**

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The goals of this class are to examine business actions from various perspectives; to promote philosophical discussion among students and between the students and the Professor in a respectful exploration of the issues involved; and to provide a foundation for each individual's lifelong search for what is good and right.

### **Resources:**

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*A Companion to Business Ethics*, ed. by Robert Frederick (Required Text)

### **Reading Schedule (Subject to Change):**

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Normative Theory:	Chapter 9: Nature and business ethics
	Chapter 8: Business ethics in a free society
	Chapter 2: Utilitarianism and business ethics
	Chapter 1: A Kantian approach to business ethics
	Chapter 3: Business ethics and virtue
	Chapter 4: Social contract approaches to business ethics
Specific Issues:	Chapter 21: Employee rights
	Chapter 14: Marketing ethics
	Chapter 19: International business ethics
	Chapter 23: Business's environmental responsibility

### **Coursework**

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**Coursework:** The coursework will consist of two short answer/short essay exams (25% each), one 30-minute group case-analysis presentation and 10-page paper (40%), and short evaluations of each of the presentations (10% altogether). Outlines of the lectures and review sheets for the exams will be made available online. Please bring a bluebook for your exams.

## **Due dates:**

Prior to Jan 31<sup>st</sup>: Group Meeting with the Professor

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>: Proposal Due

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: Exam 1

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Presentations Begin

Finals Week: Exam 2

Note: There will be no classes on the following dates: Mon, Jan 21 (MLK Day), Mon and Wed, Feb 4 and 6 (Mardi Gras), Mon., Feb 18, Mon and Wed, March 24 and 26 (Spring Break), Wed April 23 (Celebration of Learning Day), (Wed, April 30 is the last day of classes.)

**Presentations:** A proposal for the group presentation will be due on Wed., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Your group is required to meet the Professor sometime prior to that but after you have conducted some initial research for your presentation to help prepare a focus for your presentation. Your entire group should be present for the meeting and you should have notes prepared for the Professor on the company's ethical and unethical actions as well as some ideas on how you would like to divide the responsibilities among the group members. Presentations will begin on Wed. the week after Spring Break (April 2<sup>nd</sup>).

## **Grades**

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The college describes grade designations in the Bulletin. Briefly, an A constitutes "excellent...truly outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative"; a B "truly superior or well above average attainment"; a C "average or satisfactory work as is done by a majority of students"; and a D "deficient, but passed."

## **Academic Integrity**

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Academic honesty is expected in this class, as in all other classes, and the penalties for transgressing will be severe and may include failing the class and being reported to the Provost. This means that you must write your own papers; merely summarizing someone else's views in your papers is unacceptable. Your papers do not require outside research and most, if not all, of each paper should be your own ideas together with the ideas presented in lecture and in the class readings. All references in your papers to another person's views must be cited sufficiently. Always err on the side of being too careful in citations rather than being careless and ask me if you are in doubt about whether something is permitted.

## **Other Policies:**

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Attendance and Participation: This class relies very heavily on attendance and participation. Missing more than three classes, per college policy, may result in dismissal from class. Note: students will not be dropped from the class by the Professor; students must withdraw themselves by the drop deadline to avoid receiving a WP or WF in the class. All special events outside of the class time that the class is required to attend may be made-up, but regular classes may not.

Late and Missing Assignments: Completion of both exams and adequate participation in the presentation are required for passing the class. Essays that are not submitted via hard-copy and email by the due date will be considered late unless otherwise stated or other arrangements are made with the Professor.

Special Accommodations: Students who want to receive disabilities accommodations should contact Mrs. Dunklin, Coordinator for Student Support Services at 380-3470 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be arranged. Her office is located in Student Academic Services, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Administration Building.