

## Course Syllabus

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### Course Information

OBHR 4310  
Business Ethics  
Spring 2013

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### Professor Contact Information

Dr. Marilyn R. Kaplan  
2.208  
[mkaplan@utdallas.edu](mailto:mkaplan@utdallas.edu)  
972-883-2742  
Hours: 3-5 daily

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### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Prerequisites: [OBHR 3310](#) and ([MATH 1326](#) or [MATH 2414](#) or [MATH 2419](#)). (3-0) S

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### Course Description

[OBHR 4310](#) - Business Ethics (3 semester hours) Examines ethical and socio-political issues and concepts that relate to management in a global business environment. Leaders increasingly need to be aware of potential threats and opportunities in their environments and many stem from value and cultural differences that most managers are not trained to resolve.

This course will examine ethical concepts as they relate to the business environment, domestically and globally. A study of ethics must begin by exploring the historical and philosophical basis for values in American business. Multinational cultural diversity as it relates to corporate America business ethics will be the framework of the issues explored. Global ethical business issues and cases will be discussed.

### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. Be knowledgeable of values and cultural impact on business -both globally and domestically;
2. Be familiar with formal/informal ethical business guidelines;
3. Increase awareness of the multitude of issues and dilemmas facing business daily;
4. Increase awareness of how business responds to challenges and the difficulties faced;
5. Be able to form strategies to deal with ethical issues.

### This is a Communication-Enhanced Course (CEC)

CECs are courses in which you will strengthen your writing and speaking skills while you deepen your understanding of key material in your major. Studies and employers tell us that your ability to write clearly and speak well about topics in your field will strongly increase your chances of professional success. CECs will help you to develop as a professional communicator and demonstrate your abilities both to your instructor and to potential employers. You are STRONGLY encouraged to seek help with your speaking and writing at the Business Communication Center (<http://bcc.utdallas.edu>).

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### Required Textbooks and Materials

Managing Business Ethics, Linda Trevino & Katherine Nelson, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Wiley.

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
1/14 1/16	Introduction/Library	
1/23	Manners/Behaviors/Values	Chapter 1
1/28 1/30	Issues Management	
2/4 2/6	Theories	Chapter 3
2/11 2/13	Analysis	Chapter 2 & 4
2/18	Group work day	
2/20	Analysis	Chapter 2
2/25 2/27	Organizational Culture	Chapter 5 & 9
3/4 3/6	Compliance	Chapter 6
3/18 3/20	Organizational Roles	Chapter 7
3/25	Exam 1	
3/27	Consumers	Chapter 10
4/1 4/3	Employees	Chapter 8
4/8 4/10	Shareholders	Chapter 10
4/15 4/17	Community	Chapter 10
4/22 4/24	Globalization	Chapter 11
4/29	Presentations	
5/1	Exam 2	

### Grading Policy

<b>Assignments</b>		
Term paper Project	20%	
Exams	30%	
Journal	10%	
Community Service	10%	
Class Participation	10%	
Group presentation of project	20%	
	100%	
A+: 97 and up	A: 94-96	A-: 90-93
B+: 87-89	B: 84-86	B-: 80-83
C+: 77-79	C: 74-76	C-: 70-73
D+: 67-69	D: 64-66	D-: 60-63
F	Below 60%	

## **Exams**

Exams will be essay format. Questions will be based on the lectures and class discussions.

## **Group Presentation/Project**

Each group will conduct an experiment regarding ethical behaviors.

You will:

1. Form hypotheses
2. Conduct your experiment
  - a. Survey
  - b. Observation
3. Present your findings:
  - a. Hypotheses
  - b. Theoretical basis
  - c. Results – data
  - d. Conclusion

## **Journal**

Each student will have a private journal space on eLearning. I will be the only one reading your journal. A journal entry is due for each textbook chapter the week it is assigned. You may use the following guidelines:

- Reflect on the chapter material and relate it to your own experiences
- Or, answer a question at the end of the chapter

## **Community Service**

Each student is required to participate in community service. This portion of your grade will be judged on two deliverables:

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- While logged in to either a new, or a pre-existing Facebook account follow the link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OBHR4310.501/>
  - Upload a photo of yourself or your group at the location of their community service activity.  
Note: All group members must be clearly visible in the photograph
  - In the text box provided to you, please write the name of the service location, date of completion, and the community service project
  - Using the “tag” option on Facebook, clearly identify each group member in the photo and the location
  - Click “submit” to post the photo in the group
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And write a 1-3 page paper describing why you chose this community service project, and what ethical lessons you learned from it. Due no later than the last day of class.

You may do your community service alone or in a group.

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### **Term Paper Project**

You will be completing a term paper project in 3 phases. All three parts are required. The total deliverable will range from 10-15 pages. Note that Part 3 is twice as long and has twice as much grade weight as part 2. You will submit an MLA format works cited page for each section.

**Project Part 1: Problem Statement.** Choose an ethical problem in business. To get topic approval, you must write a one-page paper explaining what your topic encompasses and how it is related to business ethics. You may not proceed with the paper until you have approval for your topic on eLearning. I will approve them as they are uploaded.

- Due: NO LATER THAN 2/6, 6pm
- 10% of the total project points
- One page – Upload through ELearning – Assignments
- No hard copy

**Project Part 2: Problem Identification** This is the research segment of your paper. Research your topic through the library databases. Pretend that you are writing a case for the textbook. Facts only! No opinions!

- Part 2 Requirements:
  - State the ethical problem/Facts only
    - What happened?
    - What was the result?
  - Describe the situation
    - What is the context?
    - Who What When Where
    - Give some historical background, data
- Due: NO LATER THAN 3/6, 6pm
- 30% of total project points
- Approximately **3-5 pages**
- Turn in hard copy PLUS Upload through turnitin link on ELearning.

**Part 3: Problem Analysis** Take the case that you produced in Part 2 and analyze it. Identify the stakeholders and theories of ethics. What actions should be/should have been taken by those involved? If you were in control, what decisions would you make? Support your recommendations. This part of the project should be your analysis

- Part 3 Requirements:
  - Identify the stakeholders
    - Who are they?
    - How important are they to this problem?
  - Identify and discuss the theories of ethics in use by the stakeholders
  - List possible alternative strategies
    - Rank the alternatives or assign probabilities
    - Which of these strategies do you recommend and why?
  - Be sure to write a strong conclusion – case analysis is based on a well-supported argument!
- Due: NO LATER THAN 4/17,6pm
- 60% of total project points
- Approximately 7-10 pages
- Turn in hard copy PLUS upload through turnitin link on ELearning.

**Term paper format & rules:**

- You must follow the requirements. This assignment involves the ANALYSIS PROCESS.
- All three parts are required.
- Late papers will not be accepted.
- Use the MLA Handbook and follow the rules of format for papers regarding spacing, headers, references, citations, etc.
- You must list references – I expect you to go to the library for sources. The Internet may be used but only along with other sources. If your paper has only Internet sources, it is an automatic zero! Use of Wikipedia constitutes an automatic zero grade.
- Word processing programs have spelling and grammar checking capabilities – use them!
- You are encouraged to visit the Communications lab for your paper and presentation..

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**Course & Instructor Policies**

No make up exams.

Late work is not accepted.

Extra Credit opportunities will be discussed in class.

*Class Attendance*

You are required to attend class. This course is your course – your input will determine your outcomes.

Therefore, exclusive of the participation grade, you are allowed 2 excused absences. After that, each absence results in a reduction of 5 points from your total grade.

We will be completing multiple group exercises in class, this and your individual discussion contributions will make up the participation grade.

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**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

**The minimum sanction for cheating or plagiarism is a zero on the assignment or exam.**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

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*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*