

Course Syllabus

Course Information

OBHR 4310
Business Ethics
Spring 2018

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Marilyn R. Kaplan
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972-883-2742
Hours: 3-5 Tuesday/Thursday or by appointment

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

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

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.

The Comet Creed

As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all I do.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Conscious Capitalism, John Mackey & Raj Sisodia, Harvard Business Review Press, 2013.

Simulation – www.deepwatersim.com

Assignments & Tentative Academic Calendar

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment Always 8:00am	Deepwater Always 11:45 pm
1/8 1/10	Introduction Library			
1/17	Manners/Behaviors/Values		List of Values Journal #1 1/19	
1/22 1/24	Issues Management			Registration completed 1/24 11:45pm
1/29 1/31	Theories Part 1			Practice round 1 1/31 11:45pm
2/5 2/7	Theories Part 2		Part 1 Business Policy Project 2/9 Journal #2 2/9	Practice Round 2 2/7 11:45pm
2/12 2/14	Theories part 3		Journal #3 2/16	Round 1 2/14 11:45pm
2/19 2/21	Deepwater workday Theories Continued		Journal #4 2/23 Business Comparison Audit Firm Choices 2/23	Round 2 2/21 11:45pm
2/26 3/2	Organizational Culture Exam 1		Journal #5 3/4 Part 2 Business Policy Project 3/4	Round 3 2/28 11:45pm
3/5 3/7	Compliance Organizational Roles		Journal #6 3/9	Round 4 3/7 11:45pm
3/19 3/21	Consumers		Journal #7 3/23	Round 5 3/21 11:45pm
3/26 3/28	Employees		Journal #8 3/30	Round 6 3/28 11:45pm
4/2 4/4	Shareholders		Journal #9 4/6	Round 7 4/4 11:45pm
4/9 4/11	Community		Journal #10 4/13 Business Comparison Audit Paper 4/13	Round 8 4/11 11:45pm
4/16 4/18	Presentations		4/23 community service due	
4/23 4/25	Exam 2 Presentations			

Grading Policy

Assignments		
Business policy project	15%	
Firm comparison project	15%	
Journal	20%	
Exams	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. You may use a one page (both sides) resource of your notes.

Group Project

Deepwater Simulation – you will work in pairs on the Deepwater online Simulation. Each pair will be making ethical decisions while trying to make a profit in offshore drilling. At the end of the semester you will report your results. See eLearning for the template.

Journal

You will be writing 10 short journal assignments on eLearning that will be responses to news items or other prompts.

Community Service

Each student is required to participate in community service. You will write a 1-3 page paper describing why you chose this community service project, and what ethical lessons you learned from it. Upload to eLearning. You may do your community service alone or in a group, but the paper is individual.

Participation

You must attend class and join in the discussions.

The Two Required Papers

You may submit your papers as many times as you wish prior to the deadline – my goal is 48 hours turnaround time for feedback. This means that you can rewrite your memos for better grades as long as your final attempt is received by the assignment deadline. Upload all assignments through eLearning – no hard copies!

Business Policy Project

Project Part 1: Problem Statement. Choose an ethical problem in business that you will solve through your policy. To get topic approval, you must write a one-page paper explaining what your problem 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.

- State the ethical problem/Facts only
 - What happened?
 - What was the result?
- Due: NO LATER THAN 2/9, 8am
- 10% of the total project points
- One page – Upload through eLearning – Assignments
- No hard copy

Project Part 2: Policy Analysis and Statement

Take the problem that you identified in Part 1 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 with research and use citations.

- Part 2 Requirements:
 - Describe the situation
 - What is the context?
 - Who What When Where
 - Give some historical background, data (graphs, tables encouraged!)
 - 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 methods of dealing with the problem
 - How do businesses handle the problem now?
 - Include current firm policies if possible
 - What are the costs of the alternatives
 - Rank the alternatives
 - State your policy clearly
 - Specific details of the policy
 - Include deadlines, dates, etc.
 - What is the cost of the policy implementation? Include opportunity costs
- Due: NO LATER THAN 3/6, 8am
- 90% of total project points
- Approximately 5-7 pages of text

Business Comparison Audit Project

- Firm choices:
 - Choose a firm from the World's Most Ethical Companies link on eLearning
 - Choose a competitor of that firm who is not also on the list
 - Double check your choices with me on eLearning no later than 3/21, 8am
- You will compare and contrast the firms by completing an ethics audit on each
- This will require library research (this means citations)
- The format can be found on eLearning
 - Please use bullet points for the table
 - Add graphs or other tables as needed
- Due: NO LATER THAN 4/17, 8am

Format & Rules for papers

- You must follow the requirements. This assignment involves the ANALYSIS PROCESS.
- Late papers will not be accepted.
- Use the MLA Handbook or APA and follow the rules of format for papers regarding spacing, headers, references, citations, etc.
- You must list references – I expect you to use the library for sources. The Internet may be used but only along with other library 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.

Course & Instructor Policies

No make up exams.

Late work is not accepted.

Extra Credit opportunities will be discussed in class.

Scholastic dishonesty penalties will be a minimum of a zero on the assignment or exam.

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.

Group Rules

All groups have hiring and firing capabilities. Individuals have the ability to resign a group. However, every student must belong to a group. If you have conflicts with your group, you may resign – but you must interview and find a position with another group. Conversely, groups may discharge members, but the students fired from a group must find another group. I have found this method greatly reduces social loafing. **You will be evaluated by your peers – no slackers allowed!** At the end of the semester, each student will rate the performance of their fellow team members. This rating will be used to determine individual student grades for group assignments.

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.

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