



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Business Ethics

Term and Year: TBD

Course and Section Number: BA 5103

Time and Place: TBD

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Instructor:

Office Location/Hours:

Office Phone:

Email:

Course Description: This course examines business ethics in a systematic and comprehensive way. Topics will include a discussion of why ethics matter, ethics from past to present, ethics as applied to stakeholders, the impact of culture and time on business ethics, ethics in the workplace, ethics as applied to diversity, and the future trends of ethics.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Assess the role of ethics in a business environment.
2. Distinguish between ethical and legal responsibilities.
3. Critique various types of ethical theories.
4. Select key types of business stakeholder relationships that are important to advance business ethics in the workplace.
5. Investigate the interaction of business and culture from an ethical perspective.

Prerequisites: Admission to Trine Graduate Program

Required Text:

Byars, Stephen & Kurt Stanberry. (2022). Business Ethics. USC Marshall School of Business.
<https://openstax.org/details/books/business-ethics>

Sankaranarayanan, Suganya (2020). *Business Ethics: Corporate and Personal*. Southwestern College.
<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/business-ethics-corporate-and-personal/view>

Tierny, Keith & Andy Schmidt. (2018). Business Law and the Legal Environment. Saylor Academy.
https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_business-law-and-the-legal-environment-v1.0-a/index.html

Additional readings may be posted in Moodle or provided by the Instructor

Other Course Materials and Required Readings:

Helping Corporate Board Members Stay Diligent Post Enron, available at:
<https://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ijbm/article/view/5409>

Ethics Unwrapped: A Case Study. The Wells Fargo Fraud, available at:
<https://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/video/wells-fargo-fraud>

npr: Special Series, Investigating the Wells Fargo Scandal, available at:
<https://www.npr.org/2016/10/04/496508361/former-wells-fargo-employees-describe-toxic-sales-culture-even-at-hq>

Course Requirements:

Attendance/Participation: All students are expected to log in to their courses regularly throughout the week to receive instruction, materials, and updates from the instructor. It is your responsibility to check in and submit your assignments, complete your discussion board postings, and finish quizzes and exams by the due dates.

If you do not participate in the course, you will be counted absent. Simply logging in is not enough; you must submit/complete an assignment, post to a discussion board, or other similar assignment tasks to avoid being counted absent. Instructors are required to submit attendance the Monday following each week of class.

This attendance is reported to the Financial Aid Department and may result in the loss of any financial aid refund you are expecting if you have not been participating in your courses. **In addition, you will be administratively dropped from the course if you are reported absent a total of three weeks.**

Grading/Evaluation:

Trine Graduate Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage	Quality Points	Meaning of Grade
A	93-100	4.0	Excellent
B+	86-92	3.5	Very Good
B	81-85	3.0	Good
C+	75-80	2.5	Above Average
C	70-74	2.0	Average (lowest passing grade)
F	00-69	0.0	Failure
I	Incomplete	Not figured into GPA	
IP	In Progress (grade deferred)	Not figured into GPA	
W	Withdrawal	Withdrawal before completion of 80% of semester	

WP	Withdrawal	Withdrawal after completion of 80% of semester issued only under special circumstances and with approval of the department chair/director	
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DISCUSSION FORUMS: Students are required to participate in seven (7) Discussion Forums. (Weeks 1-7):

General Guidelines for Online Discussions:

For the online discussions, you must not only respond to the instructor's questions, but carry on a dialogue with classmates as well. These are discussions and not just question and answer sessions. Good discussions are one of the items that make a good online course and establish community. If you only respond to the instructor's question, it makes the discussion more of an "exam" rather than a dialogue.

- (i) Do not get caught up in "winning" the debate. You are here to learn the material and to discuss matters of importance with others.
- (ii) Read all postings from classmates, not just those from the instructor.
- (iii) If there are questions regarding the reading material, ask them as soon as possible.
- (iv) When you reply to a post, do not just say "I agree." Give the person or persons name you are agreeing with and summarize what you are agreeing with. You might also consider changing the subject line to reflect your post.
- (v) You should plan on having, at minimum, your first post completed by **11:59 P.M. on Wednesday** and your subsequent posts by **11:59 P.M. on Sunday** of that week. Two quality posts are the bare minimum. Late posts do not count for grading purposes. See the **Course Schedule** for additional details.
- (vi) If you express an opinion, support it with material from our readings. When you quote, summarize, or paraphrase from the text be sure to give the page number(s) -- This is important!

NETIQUETTE POLICY: Online discussion board forums take the place of actual conversations in a traditional classroom; furthermore, discussion boards are a large part of your final grade. Assume that you are in a professional setting and be sure to be mindful of your spelling and grammar when making posts. Like it or not, you are judged by how well you write and speak in the real world. Some students prepare their main posts in Microsoft Word and then copy/paste into the forum. Please remember to read each post made within the course and to meet the requirements for responding to your peers each week. Finally, remember to be respectful within your discussion posts and responses and refrain from belligerent feedback as such behavior is considered unprofessional and unacceptable.

WEEKLY WRITING/PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS: Students are required to write or produce Seven (7) Weekly Writing or Productions. Writing Assignments will typically require 3-4 Pages of double-spaced writing with Cover Page and APA Guidelines. As an alternative, students may produce Infographics or Record a Podcast per Instructions in the Moodle Course.

FINAL PROJECT: Students will be required to turn in a Final Project. This Project will include students researching an Ethics violations case (may contain both Ethical and Legal violations). Examples include the Wells Fargo Case from our Course, BP Oil Spill, Theranos/Elizabeth Holmes, Big Pharma and the Opioid Crisis, Michigan State Gymnastics, North Carolina Basketball Program, etc...Students **MUST** receive Instructor Approval **PRIOR** to choosing their Final Project case.

1. The quick grade breakdown is as follows:

Discussion Forums:	25 points each	Total is 175 points
Weekly Writing/Production	50 points each	Total is 350 points
Final Project	150 points	Total is 150 points
Course Total		675 Points

Other Policies:

Academic Misconduct:

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to dishonesty in examinations (cheating), presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as one's own (plagiarism) or knowingly furnishing false information to the University by forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records, or identification. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work, submitting an academic exercise (written work, printing, design, computer program) that has been prepared totally or in part by another, acquiring improper knowledge of the contents of an exam, using unauthorized material during an exam, submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of professors, or submitting a forged grade change slip or computer tampering. The faculty member has the authority to grant a failing grade in cases of academic misconduct as well as referring the case to Student Life.

Plagiarism:

You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited: All work submitted by students in this course must be generated by the student. Students may not have another person or entity contribute to an assignment for them, which includes using AI. Students may not incorporate any part of an AI-generated response in an assignment, use AI to formulate arguments, use AI to generate ideas for an assignment, or submit work to an AI platform for improvement. Using an AI tool to generate content may qualify as academic misconduct in this course.

OR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is allowed: Students may use AI tools on instructor-identified assignments in this course. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work. Using an AI tool without proper attribution may qualify as academic misconduct in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to verify

the accuracy, reliability, and ethical implications of AI-generated content.

Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic devices including smart watches and cell phones is prohibited during exams or quizzes unless directly allowed by the instructor.

Late Policy:

Assignments are to be turned in, on time, through the Moodle Course, as outlined by the Course Schedule and as noted in the appropriate Course Week in Moodle. An Assignment or Discussion Post will be considered "late" if submitted more than 1 hour past the deadline. (This allows for the occasional tech issue that may occur last minute) Late Assignments and Discussions are subject to a 10% loss of points or penalty for every 24 hours that they are not turned in. The Instructor has the discretion to accept late assignments, especially, if the student has notified the Instructor PRIOR to the due date that the Assignment may be late. Major health, work and life circumstances will be given consideration on a case by case, individual basis.

References

Fugate, M. (2017). *Legal vs ethical liability: A crisis of leadership and culture* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veXPk4Zeqtk>

Harris, T. (2018). *How a handful of tech companies control billions of minds of everyday* [Video].

Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C74amJRp730>

Ji, C., & Herwig, M. (2016). *Interview on how to involve stakeholders* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIMRasXSmU4>

Pope, K. (2018). *How whistle-blowers shape history* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51k3UASQE5E&t=34s>

Saylor Academy, Tierney, K, & Schmidt, A. (2018). *BA 226 – Business law and the legal environment*. Community Archive @ LBCC. Retrieved on April 19, 2023

http://libarchive.linnbenton.edu/concern/open_educational_resources/ns064618f?locale=en

Schur, M. (2022). *How ethics can help you make better decisions* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAswj8evFZk>

Singer, P. (2014) *The why and how of effective altruism* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Diuv3XZQXyc>

TRINEONLINE

Course Mapping

BA 5103 Business Ethics

Course Description: This course examines business ethics in a systematic and comprehensive way. Topics will include a discussion of why ethics matter, ethics from past to present, ethics as applied to stakeholders, the impact of culture and time on business ethics, ethics in the workplace, ethics as applied to diversity, and the future trends of ethics.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Assess the role of ethics in a business environment. (LO1)
2. Distinguish between ethical and legal responsibilities. (LO2)
3. Critique various types of ethical theories. LO3)
4. Select key types of business stakeholder relationships that are important to advance business ethics in the workplace. (LO4)
5. Investigate the interaction of business and culture from an ethical perspective.(LO5)

Week One: LO1	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Ethics: Corporate and Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts 1 and 2: Introduction to Business Ethics/Evolution of Business Ethics and Codes of Ethics/Conduct (20 pages) (LO1) Helping Corporate Board Members Stay Diligent Post Enron. (7 pages) (LO1) <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Economic Forum Roundtable (First 20 minutes). Responsive and Responsible Business (LO1) 	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum Discussion: Introduce yourself to the Class/Course Week 1 Discussion: Amazon Code of Conduct for Employees (LO1) <p>Assignment: Week 1 Writing Assignment: Produce an Infographic on the Wide-Ranging Costs of Unethical Business Practices (LO1)</p>
Week Two: LO2	

Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Law and the Legal Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1: Introduction to Law and Legal Systems (15 pages) (LO2) Chapter 2: Corporate Social Responsibility and Ethics (16 pages) (LO2) <p>Watch: Legal vs. Ethical Liability: A Crisis of Culture and Leadership (16 minutes) (LO2)</p>	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2 Discussion: Is It Legal, But Not Ethical?(LO2) <p>Assignment: Week 2 Writing Assignment: The Ford Pinto Case. Write a Paper OR Record a Podcast Discussing this Landmark Case. (LO2)</p>
Week Three: LO1,3	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2: Ethics: From Antiquity to the Present (30 pages) (LO3) <p>Watch: Ted Talks: Michael Schur, How Ethics Can Help You Make Better Decisions (12 minutes) (LO3)(LO1)</p>	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3 Discussion: Moral/Ethical Reflections(LO3) <p>Assignment: Week 3 Writing Assignment: Create an Infographic of the Four Main Ethical Theories (LO3)</p>
Week Four: LO2,4,5	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Defining and Prioritizing Stakeholders (20 pages) (LO4)(LO5) Chapter 4: Three Special Stakeholders (30 pages) (LO2)(LO4)(LO5) <p>Watch: ChemCom Conference: How to Include Stakeholders Interview (11 minutes) (LO2)(LO4)(LO5)</p>	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4 Discussion: IKEA: Stakeholders and Culture (LO4)(LO5) <p>Assignment: Take the Mid-Term Exam located in the Moodle Course (LO2)(LO4)</p>
Week Five: LO1,5	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Ethics: Corporate and Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 3: Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct (10 pages) (LO1)(LO5) <p>Read: Business Ethics</p>	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5 Discussion: Chicago Tylenol Murders (LO1)(LO5) <p>Assignment:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: The Impact of Culture and Time on Business Ethics (21 pages) (LO5) <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Talks: Peter Singer, The How and Why of Effective Altruism (17 minutes) (LO5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5 Writing Assignment: Write a Paper on How to Identify Key Stakeholders (LO1)(LO5)
Week Six: LO1,3	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Business Ethics: Corporate and Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts 4 Through 7: Ethical Decision-Making; Ethics Training; Ethics Reporting (24 pages) (LO1)(LO3) <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Talks: How a Handful of Tech Companies Control Billions of Minds Every Day (17 minutes) (LO1)(LO3) 	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 6 Discussion: Employee Ethics: You Decide (LO1)(LO3) <p>Assignment: Week 6 Writing Assignment: Create an Infographic on John Rawls Thought Experiment(LO1)(LO3)</p>
Week Seven: LO2,5	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
<p>Read: Ethics Unwrapped: Case Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well Fargo Fraud (4 pages) (LO2)(LO5) Investigating the Wells Fargo Scandal Former Wells Fargo Employees Describe Toxic Culture (5 pages) (LO2)(LO5) Business Ethics Chapter 8: Recognizing and Respecting the Rights of All (21 pages) (LO5) <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Talks: Kelly Richmond Pope, How Whistleblowers Shape History(12 minutes) (LO2)(LO5) 	<p>Participate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 7 Discussion: Diversion and Inclusion in the Workforce (LO5) <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 7 Writing Assignment: Write a Paper or Record a Podcast: Ethical Implications in Films(LO2)(LO5)
Week Eight: LO2,4,5	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments

<p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Final Writing Project Instructions from the Course Syllabus (1 Page) (LO2)(LO4)(LO5) <p>Review Final Writing Project Guidelines from the Moodle Course(1 page) (LO2)(LO4)(LO5)</p>	<p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Final Writing Project via Moodle (LO2)(LO4)(LO5) • Submit Final Presentation via Moodle (LO2)(LO4)(LO5)
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