

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-330-Ethics in Business

CLASS SECTION: 001A & B

TERM: Winter 2025

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-Face

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Kirk McDermid

EMAIL: McDermidK@Camosun.ca

OFFICE: Campus Center 118 A-5, Interurban Campus

HOURS: Posted in D2L (TBD in first week)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Examining ethical issues arising in business settings, the course focuses on understanding ethical systems and concepts and the social/political context in which contemporary business operates. Topics include corporate responsibility, employee rights, discrimination and affirmative action, conflicts of interest, whistle-blowing, and general issues of honesty in business practice.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C in ENGL 151

C in ENGL 161

C in ENGL 163

C in ENGL 164

Bachelor's degree from a recognized post-secondary institution

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EQUIVALENCIES:

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Summarize and evaluate central problems in business ethics.
2. Critically examine classical and contemporary solutions to these problems.
3. Make comparisons between various philosophical/ethical positions and have an overall sense of the history of ethics in general.
4. Take a philosophical/ethical position and support that position with good reasons (evidence).
5. Explain the relevance of ethics to everyday problems in business concerning beliefs and values, knowledge and justification.
6. Describe and critically assess specific cases and alternative solutions to contemporary ethical problems in business.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

(a) Required Text: Andres, Gregory G. (ed.); Jordan, W. Jim; Stumpf, Andrew; et al. (2021). *With a Clear Conscience: Business Ethics, Decision-Making, and Strategic Thinking*. Oxford University Press Canada.

(b) Other readings will be posted or linked on the class D2L webpage.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

Lecture: Wednesdays 2:30pm – 4:20pm. (Health & Wellness 341, Interurban)

Seminars: Fridays 1:30pm – 2:20pm [section A] or 2:30pm – 3:20pm [section B]. (Health & Wellness 348, Interurban)

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week #1 Jan 8 (Lecture) Jan 10 (Seminar)	Introduction & The Impossibility of the Separation Thesis L: Introduction: What This Text Is About (p. 1-7) L: Chapter 1: Business Ethics and Ethical Business (p. 17-28) S: Icebreaker Activity	
Week #2 Jan 15 (Lecture) Jan 17 (Seminar)	Ethical Relativism & Ethical Objectivism L: Chapter 1: Business Ethics and Ethical Business (p. 8-17) S: Case Study – The Quandary at Pure Drug (D2L)	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week #3 Jan 22 (Lecture) Jan 24 (Seminar)	Consequentialist Ethics: Act & Rule Utilitarianism L: Chapter 2: Thinking in Ethical Terms (p. 29-48; p. 35-36) S: Case Study – Beech-Nut’s Imitation Apple Juice (D2L)	
Week #4 Jan 29 (Lecture) Jan 31 (Seminar)	Deontological Ethics: Kantianism & Ross’ <i>Prima Facie</i> Duties L: Chapter 2: Thinking in Ethical Terms (p. 29-48; p. 31-35) S: Case Study – The Curious Loan Approval (D2L)	
Week #5 Feb 5 (Lecture) Feb 7 (Seminar)	Virtue Ethics L: Chapter 2: Thinking in Ethical Terms (p. 29-48; p. 36-37) S: Case Study – The Parable of the Sadhu (D2L)	
Week #6 Feb 12 (Lecture) Feb 14 (Seminar)	Ethics of Care & Feminist Ethics L: Chapter 2: Thinking in Ethical Terms (p. 29-48; p. 37-40) S: Case Study – Living and Dying with Asbestos (D2L)	CSA #1 due (Feb 12th)
Week #7 Feb 19 (Lecture) Feb 21 (Seminar)	Ethical Decision-Making Framework L: Chapter 3: Ethical Decision Making (p. 49-73) S: Case Study - Applying the EDMF to the Video-Game Development Crunch (p. 70-72)	
Week #8 Feb 26 (Lecture) Feb 28 (Seminar)	L: Midterm S: Midterm also	Midterm exam
Week #9 Mar 5 (Lecture) Mar 7 (Seminar)	Corporate Social Responsibility L: Chapter 4: Corporate Social Responsibility (p. 74-93) S: Case Study – Assessing Walmart’s Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (p. 82-84)	
Week #10 Mar 12 (Lecture) Mar 14 (Seminar)	Fairness & Non-Discrimination L: Chapter 5: Fairness and Non-Discrimination (p. 94-118) S: Case Study – The Best Person for the Job? (D2L)	CSA #2 due (March 12th)
Week #11 Mar 19 (Lecture) Mar 21 (Seminar)	Social Action Problems L: Chapter 6: Social Action Problems (p. 119-141) S: Case Study – An Auditor’s Dilemma (D2L)	
Week #12 Mar 26 (Lecture) Mar 27 (Seminar)	Business and the Environment L: Baxter - People or Penguins (D2L) & Singer - The Place of Nonhumans in Environmental Issues (D2L) S: Case Study – Pipelines, Dams, and Indigenous Territory (p. 160-162)	
Week #13 Apr 2 (Lecture) Apr 4 (Seminar)	Marketing and Advertising L: Chapter 8: The Power of Advertising (p. 166-182) S: Case Study – Toy Wars (D2L)	CSA #3 due (April 2nd)
Week #14 Apr 9 (Lecture) Apr 11 (Seminar)	Course Review & Final Exam Prep	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams).
<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>(a) Seminar activity</p> <p>During each seminar, students will be asked to complete a short assignment based on the lecture's seminar reading. These will be turned in at the end of each seminar and graded on a spec basis. No rewrites, deferrals, or makeups. Details will be distributed each seminar meeting.</p>	<p>10% Total 10 at 1% each</p>
<p>(b) Lecture session engagement</p> <p>Each lecture session I'll be collecting evidence of your intellectual engagement in the session. We'll discuss more in class what this means, and the various types of evidence I'll be looking for.</p>	<p>10% Total 10 at 1% each</p>
<p>(c) Out-of-class engagement</p> <p>Outside of class sessions (lectures and seminars) there will be an expectation of intellectual engagement with course material, besides reading the text. We'll discuss more in class what this means, and the various types of evidence I'll be looking for.</p>	<p>10% Total 10 at 1% each</p>
<p>(d) Case Study Analyses</p> <p>Students will be expected to analyze a case study and apply the various ethical theories studied, identify the main ethical issue, and explain which ethical theory they believe is most convincing. No rewrites or deferrals. Further details will be provided in class and on D2L.</p>	<p>CSA #1: October 10th CSA #2: November 7th CSA #3: November 28th</p> <p>30% Total 3 at 10% each</p>
<p>(c) Midterm Exam</p> <p>The midterm will assess your learning of weeks 1-7</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>(d) Final Exam</p> <p>Scheduled by the college. The final will assess cumulative learning of course concepts, with an emphasis on weeks 9-13</p>	<p>20%</p>
TOTAL	<p>100%</p>

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Missing Classes

If you miss a class due to illness or some other reason, it is not necessary to notify me. You should find classmates early in the term to coordinate with for catching up, and visit office hours with me as well.

Missed Tests

Make up tests will be permitted only in cases of illness or personal crisis – early notice (i.e., before the test!) will make my accommodations substantially easier and more positive for both of us.

Use of Artificial Intelligence aids

Generally speaking, I don't mind (and may encourage) use of LLM GenAIs (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Gemini, Siri, Claude) for constructive purposes. We'll discuss more in class, and before major assignments & assessments. Any time you are in any doubt about the permissibility of relying on AI: notify & document your use. This goes a long way to establishing good-faith mistakes, if your usage was in fact not permitted. (Most AIs keep records of sessions; you should know how to access those to show your prof that your use was authentic and not deceptively intended.)

Textbook

The textbook is unfortunately not free; used or rental versions are very acceptable. If you have issues affording your textbook, please contact me so we can find some solution for you. We will be using it, and you will have great difficulty succeeding without good access to the text.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.