

School of Arts & Science
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
PHIL –330 -01 Ethics in Business
Summer, 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Dr. James Atkinson
- (b) Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 – 9:30
- (c) Location: CC 119A
- (d) Phone: 3950 Alternative Phone:
- (e) Email: atkinsonj@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website:

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

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

- 1. Identify and describe fundamental philosophical problems, along with the classical philosophical answers to these problems.
- 2. Distinguish among various philosophical theories. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
- 3. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses.

3. Required Materials

- (a) **Texts:** -Moral Issues in Business: *William H. Shaw and Vincent Barry*

- (b) **Other:** -*various handouts and articles on reserve*

4. Course Content and Schedule

Philosophy: The love of wisdom

Ethics: A branch of philosophy that is concerned with concepts such as good and bad, right and wrong, correct and incorrect actions.

Applied Ethics: The attempt to apply theoretical ethics to real world problems.

Business: Commercial enterprise, profession, or trade operated for the purpose of earning a profit by providing a product or service; also called business enterprise. Entrepreneurs who put money at risk to promote a particular venture for the purpose of a profit create businesses.

Etymology Business: O.E. *bisignisse* (Northumbrian) "care, anxiety," from *bisig* "careful, anxious, busy, occupied"

The content of this course will be to employ philosophical theory and critical thinking in detailed examination of short case studies that exemplify typical ethical problems faced by individuals working in the various aspects of the business world.

The first objective in this course is to develop skills that enable you to understand and articulate ethical positions with respect to representative problems. The second objective is to develop skills to articulate solutions to ethical conflicts based on the previously

Philosophy 330: Tentative Reading Schedule

July 2nd

Introduction to philosophy and its method

Plato – Knowledge and Virtue (handout)

July 7th

Kant – Duty and Reason (handout)

July 9th

Mill – The Greatest Happiness Principle (handout)

Case 2.1 “Hacking into Harvard”

July 14th

Chapter 1 – The Nature of Morality (selections)

Chapter 2 – Normative Theory of Ethics

Case 2.1 “The Ford Pinto”

July 16th

Test 1 - *In class essay (Plato, Kant and Mill)*

Hare (p.p. 85-91)

Green (p.p. 92 - 100)

July 21st

Chapter 3 Justice and Economic Distribution

Case 3.1 “Eminent Domain”

July 23rd

Chapter 3 - cont.

Income Distribution (p.p. 132 - 140)

July 28th

Part II
Chapter 4 Capitalism
Case 4.1 “The Downsizing of America”

July 30th

Test 2 - Case Study
Chapter 4 - cont.
Case 4.2 “Hucksters in the Classroom”
Case 4.3 “Licensing and Laissez Faire”

August 4th - Holiday

August 6th

Schumacher (p.p. 185 - 189)
Chapter 5 Corporations
Case 5.1 “Living and Dying with Asbestos”

August 11th

Chapter 5 – cont.
Case 5.2 “Selling Infant Formula Overseas”

August 13th

The Creed Cycle (p.p. 246 - 255)
Review

August 18th

Final Exam

N.B.

*There will a quiz at the beginning of each class except those days in which there is a test.

* In addition to the outline above each class will examine will various aspects of logical reasoning, with a special attention to informal fallacies

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a)Quizzes – 25%

At the start of each class there will be a short quiz based on the assigned readings. If you miss a quiz there will *not* be an opportunity to write it at a later date. However, the lowest two scores will be disregarded.

(b) In Class Essays – 25% each
Due dates (subject to change): July 16th Plato, Kant and Mill, July 30th case study,
August 18th Final

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage Grade Description Grade Point

Equivalency 95-100 A+, 90-94, A 85-89 A-, 80-84 B+, 75-79 B, 70-74 B-, 65-69 C+
60-64 C, 50-59 D Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. 1 0-49 F Minimum level has not been achieved. 0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade

Description

I Incomplete: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.

IP In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrolment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.) CW Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

CW

Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [_ HYPERLINK "http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf" _camosun.ca_](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf).

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy which includes plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.