



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
**School of Arts & Science**  
**Department of Humanities**

**PHIL-330-001AB**  
**Ethics in Business**  
**Winter 2019**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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The course description is available on the web @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/phil.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

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**1. Instructor Information**

(a) Instructor	Dr. Joseph Van Weelden
(b) Office hours	Tuesday and Thursday 1-2 pm
(c) Location	Interurban LACC 118A
(d) Phone	(250) 370-3837 <b>Alternative:</b>
(e) E-mail	WeeldenJ@camosun.bc.ca

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

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.

**3. Required Materials**

1. (a) **Required Text:** Ciulla, J., Martin, C., and Solomon, R. 2014. *Honest Work: A Business Ethics Reader, 3rd Edition*. Oxford University Press.

(b) Other readings are posted or linked on the class D2L page.

**4. Course Content and Schedule**

**Lectures: Tuesday 2:30-4:20 (Technology Building, Room 174)**

**Seminars: Seminar A- Thursday 2:30-3:20 (Portable A, Room 101)**

**Seminar B- Thursday 3:30-4:20 (Portable A, Room 101)**

**Jan 8:** Introduction, Why Do Business Ethics?

“Introduction: Getting to Work” (p. xxiii-xxv)

"The Impossibility of the Separation Thesis" (D2L, optional)

**Jan 10:** *Seminar:* Icebreaker

**Jan 15:** Utilitarianism

Audi, “Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations” (p. xxv-xxvii)

John Stuart Mill, Chapter 2 of *Utilitarianism* (D2L)

**Jan 17:** *Seminar:* White, "Beech-Nut's Imitation Apple Juice" (p.284)

**Jan 22:** Kantian Ethics

Audi, “Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations” (p. xxviii)

O’Neill “A Simplified Account of Kant’s Ethics” (D2L)

Bowie, "Respecting the Humanity in the Person" (p.4-6)

**Jan 24:** *Seminar:* Battin and Mower, "The Columbia Shuttle Disaster: Should We Have Told the Astronauts the Truth?" (p.82-83)

**Jan 29:** Virtue Ethics

Audi, "Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations" (p. xxviii-xxix)

Aristotle, "On the Good Life" (p.89-93)

Annas, “Being Virtuous and Doing the Right Thing” (D2L)

**Jan 31:** *Seminar:* Plath, "The Curious Loan Approval" (p.126-127)

**Feb 5:** Economic Justice

Rawls, "Justice as Fairness" (p.201-202)

Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" (p.203-213)

Singer, "Rich and Poor" (p.214-216)

**Feb 7:** *Seminar:* Lyutse, "Nike's Suppliers in Vietnam" (p.243-244)

**Feb 12:** Corporate Social Responsibility

Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits" (p.249-253)

Stone, "Why Shouldn't Corporations be Socially Responsible?" (p.254-257)

Freeman, "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation" (p.263-269)

**Feb 14:** *Seminar:* MacDougall, Beauchamp, Cuddihy, "The NYSEG Corporate Responsibility Case" (p.282-283)

**Feb 19: MIDTERM Feb 21: NO SEMINAR**

**Feb 26:** Product Safety and Consumer Protection

Huber, "Liability" (p.366-371)

Dowie, "Pinto Madness" (p.384-387)

Werhane, "The Pinto Case and the Rashomon Effect" (p.387-390)

**Feb 28:** *Seminar:* Shaw and Barry, "Living and Dying with Asbestos" (p.403-405)

**Mar 5:** Business and the Environment

Baxter, "People or Penguins" (p.510-514)

Bowie, “Morality, Money, and Motor Cars” (p.515-520)

Singer, "The Place of Nonhumans in Environmental Issues" (p.521-526)

**Mar 7:** *Seminar:* Arnold, "Texaco in the Ecuadorean Amazon" (p.532-533)

**Mar 12: Marketing and Advertising**

Frankfurt, "On Bullshit" (p.60-61)

Goldman, "The Justification of Advertising in a Market Economy" (p.337-342)

Savan, "The Bribe Soul" (p.342-347)

**Mar 14: Seminar: Buchholz, "Advertising at Better Foods" (p.357-358)**

**Mar 19: Accounting, Finance, and Investment**

Boatright, "Finance Ethics" (p.146-152)

Moore, "What Is Really Unethical About Insider Trading?" (p.152-159)

**Mar 21: Seminar: Boatright, "An Auditor's Dilemma" (p.182-183)**

**Mar 26: Employees' Rights, Hiring and Firing**

Barry, "The Cringing and the Craven: Freedom of Speech in the Workplace" (p.11-14)

Van Buren III "Boundaryless Careers and Employability Obligations" (p.20-25)

Nagel "A Defense of Affirmative Action" (D2L)

**Mar 28: Seminar: Ciulla, "Does Home Life Matter at Work" (p.34)**

**April 2: Whistleblowing**

Bok, "Whistleblowing and Professional Responsibility (p.412-417)

Davis, "Some Paradoxes of Whistleblowing" (p.417-423)

Duska, "Whistleblowing and Employee Loyalty" (p.423-425)

**April 4: Seminar: Desjardins and McCall, "Whistleblowing at the Phone Company" (p.447-448)**

**April 9: The Future of the Free Market**

Sen "The Economics of Poverty" (p.658-659)

Reich, "Supercapitalism" (p.665-673)

Kuttner, "Everything for Sale" (p.675-678)

**April 11: Seminar: Shaw and Barry, "Blood for Sale" (p.679-680)**

## **5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

(a) *Seminar Worksheets (10%, 10 at 1% each)*

Each week, students will be asked to complete a short assignment based on the week's seminar reading (case study). Students will be expected to assess the situation, analyze the major issue(s) involved— both professional and ethical, and apply the various ethical theories studied to arrive at a conclusion. These will be turned in at the end of each seminar and graded on a pass/fail basis. The best 10 will form the grade for this portion of the course. No rewrites or deferrals. Further details will be distributed each seminar meeting. **Reading the seminar reading assignment is essential preparation.**

(b) *Case Study Analyses (20%, 4 at 5% each)*

Four longer papers, each on a case study drawn from the textbook (the instructor will present several choices for each paper). Students will be expected to assess the situation, analyze the major issue(s) involved – both professional and ethical, and apply the various ethical theories studied to arrive at a conclusion.

CSA #1: **DUE January 31st**

CSA #2: **DUE February 28th**

CSA #3: **DUE March 21st**

CSA #4: **DUE April 11th**

No rewrites or deferrals. Further details will be provided on D2L.

- (c) *Midterm (35%, February 19<sup>th</sup>)*
- (d) *Final Exam (35%, Scheduled by College)*

## 6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

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: [www.camosun.ca](http://www.camosun.ca)

## 8. College Supports, Services and Policies



### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

### A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

#### 1. Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

## 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

## B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> 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	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> 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.