



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

**PHIL-330-001AB**  
**Ethics in Business**  
**Winter 2020**

## COURSE OUTLINE

---

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.

---

### 1. Instructor Information

(a) Instructor	Brandon De Jong, M.A., J.D.	
(b) Office hours	Tuesdays: 10:30-11:20am; or by appointment	
(c) Location	Interurban: LACC 118A	
(d) Phone	250-370-3837	Alternative: _____
(e) E-mail	DeJongB@camosun.bc.ca	
(f) Website	_____	

### 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

(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:** Tuesdays – 8:30am-10:20pm (CBA 286)

**Seminars:** Seminar A – Thursdays 8:30am-9:20am (CBA 121)

Seminar B – Thursdays 9:30am-10:20pm (CBA 121)

**Note:** This is a tentative indication of content and schedule. Listed page numbers correspond to the course text, unless otherwise specified.

## **PART I – Ethical Theory**

### **Jan 7: Introduction**

Pojman & Vaughn, "What is Ethics?" (D2L)

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – "Business Ethics" (D2L)

- READ SECTIONS: 0. Introduction, 1. Varieties of Business Ethics

**Jan 9:** *Seminar:* Icebreaker – Review January 7<sup>th</sup> readings

### **Jan 14: Consequentialist Ethics**

Pojman, "Utilitarianism" (D2L)

- REQUIRED: p. 103-113
- OPTIONAL: p. 113-126

**Jan 16:** *Seminar:* Marquiss & Ciulla, "The Quandary at PureDrug" (p. 484-485)

### **Jan 21: Rights and Duty-Based Ethics**

Audi, "Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations" – Kantian Ethics (p. xxviii)

Luper, "Kantianism" (D2L) (p.141-156)

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

OPTIONAL: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – "Rights" (D2L)

- 6. Three Approaches to Justification of Rights, 6.1 Status-Based Rights, 6.2 Instrumental Rights

**Jan 23:** *Seminar:* Battin & Mower, "The Columbia Shuttle Disaster: Should We Have Told the Astronauts the Truth?" (p.82-83)

### **Jan 28: Virtue Ethics**

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

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – "Virtue Ethics" (D2L)

- REQUIRED: 0. Introduction, 1. Preliminaries, 1.1 Virtue, 1.2 Practical Wisdom, 2. Forms of Virtue Ethics, 2.1 Eudaimonist Virtue Ethics.
- OPTIONAL: 3. Objections to Virtue Ethics.

**Jan 30:** *Seminar:* McCoy, "The Parable of the Sadhu" (p.116-118)

### **Feb 4: Distributive Justice**

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

Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" FIRST HALF (p.203-210; stop at 'Locke's Theory of Acquisition')

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

**Feb 6:** Review / Exam Prep

### **Feb 11: \*MIDTERM EXAM**

**Feb 13:** Writing Tutorial / Assign first WA

**Feb 18-21: READING BREAK – No Classes**

## **PART II – Moral Foundations of the Modern Economy**

### **Feb 25: Land and Property**

Box: "Locke on Property" (p. 291)

Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" SECOND HALF (210-214; start at 'Locke's Theory of Acquisition')

Holder, "Indigenous Rights to Land" (D2L)

**Feb 27:** *Seminar:* TBA

### **Mar 3: Employment and Exchange**

**\*WA1 Due at Beginning of Lecture**

Adam Smith, "On Human Exchange and Human Differences" (p. 194-196)

Ciulla, "Exploitation of Need" (p. 198-200)

Schumacher, "Buddhist Economics" (p. 653-657)

**Mar 5:** *Seminar:* Lyutse, "Nike's Suppliers in Vietnam" (p.243-244)

## **PART III – Ethics in Everyday Business**

### **Mar 10: 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)

**Mar 12: Seminar: MacDougall et al., "The NYSEG Corporate Responsibility Case" (p.282-283)**

### **Mar 17: Marketing and Advertising**

**\*WA2 Due at Beginning of Lecture**

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

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

**Mar 19: Seminar: Velasquez, "Toy Wars" (p.354-357)**

### **Mar 24: 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)

**Mar 26: Seminar: Shaw & Barry, "Living and Dying with Asbestos" (p.403-405)**

### **Mar 31: Business and the Environment**

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

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

**Apr 2: Seminar: Arnold, "Texaco in the Ecuadorean Amazon" (p.532-533)**

**Apr 7: Review / Exam Prep**

**\*WA3 Due at Beginning of Lecture**

**Apr 9: NO SEMINAR**

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

### **(a) Seminar Quizzes (10%, 10 at 1% each)**

During the **first 5 minutes** of each seminar, students will be given a short quiz based on the week's lecture and required reading(s). Quizzes are designed to test whether students have a) READ the required readings; b) ATTENDED the lecture; and c) UNDERSTOOD the major ideas or themes explored that week. The best 10 will form the grade for this portion of the course. No rewrites or deferrals.

Opportunity to write the quiz will not extend beyond the first 5 minute mark; therefore, students who arrive late risk forfeiting some or all of their writing time, in proportion to the number of minutes they are late. Further details will be provided during the first week of classes.

### **(b) Writing Assignments (30%, 3 at 10% each)**

Over the semester, students will submit 3 short writing assignments – corresponding to each of the three major sections of this course (see Course Content and Schedule, above). While particular requirements for each assignment will vary, students will generally be assessed on their ability to a) understand, summarize, and critically evaluate ethical theories studied in this course; b) apply those theories by analyzing moral issues that frequently arise in our modern business world; and c) draw well-reasoned conclusions and communicate them effectively. Writing Assignment due dates are as follows:

WA #1: **DUE March 3rd** (Hardcopy submitted at beginning of lecture)

WA #2: **DUE March 17th** (Hardcopy submitted at beginning of lecture)

WA #3: **DUE April 7th** (Hardcopy submitted at beginning of lecture)

Late writing assignments should be submitted to the instructor by email, and are subject to a penalty of one letter grade deduction (ex. B+ → B) per partial day late, unless accompanied by appropriate documentation of medical illness, family emergency, or other extraordinary circumstances.

Further details for each writing assignment will be provided in class and on D2L.

**(c) Midterm Exam (25%) February 11th.**

Midterm will cover Part I (Ethical Theory) of the course. All content included in lectures and required readings is examinable. Further details will be provided in class, as the exam date approaches.

**(d) Final Exam (35%) Scheduled by the college.**

Final exam will be semi-cumulative, with emphasis placed on Parts II and III of the course. Date, time, and location of the exam will be scheduled by the college, to take place during the final exam period. It is therefore imperative that students refrain from making travel arrangements or other plans until the exam schedule is released, as the exam date cannot be rescheduled. Further details will be provided later in the term.

## 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.