

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 329 Lec 01
Business Ethics
Fall 2009

Location: SS 541
Time: MWF 3:00pm-3:50pm
Instructor: David G. Dick
Office: SS 1224
Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: M and W 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

Overview:

This course aims to simultaneously introduce moral philosophy and the way it can be applied to practical problems and professional disciplines taking business ethics as its example. By the end of the course, students should be understand several prominent moral theories well enough to apply them to novel ethical problems that arise in the business world and beyond. The course will cover units on moral theory, specific ethical issues in business, and moral and philosophical issues surrounding money.

Required Texts:

A Companion to Business Ethics
Frederick, Robert E. (editor), Blackwell Publishing, 2002.
ISBN 13: 978-1405101028

Additional materials will be posted to the Blackboard site for this class.
Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Evaluation:

Participation:	5%	
Weekly Questions:	10%	
First Paper	20%	Due: Friday, October 9 th
Midterm	25%	Monday, November 2 nd
Second Paper	40%	Due: Monday, December 7 th

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–	0.7 – D–	

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(\text{Partic.}) \cdot 0.05 + (\text{W. Questions}) \cdot 0.10 + (\text{1st Paper}) \cdot 0.20 + (\text{Midterm}) \cdot 0.25 + (\text{2nd Paper}) \cdot 0.40 = \text{Final Grade}$$

Participation:

I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for giving me evidence that you are. This evidence can come in many forms, such as attending and participating in the class and its discussions, visiting me in office hours to discuss course material, or sending me an email with a good idea or question when one comes to you.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, on a day of your choice, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question.

The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it.

I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress.

These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to Blackboard.)

Weekly questions are due at the beginning of each class, in hard copy. You can only submit a weekly question on a day you attend class.

There are 14 weeks including this first one, but I'll only be asking for 12 weekly questions from you this semester. It's entirely up to you which day you'd like to pass on.

Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Midterm and Papers:

Will be in the form of philosophical essays written in response to topics I will distribute in advance of the days the papers are due or the midterms are given.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.