



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHIL 329 L01**

**Business Ethics**

Fall 2021

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm – 1:45pm, SB 105

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Shelley Smith

**Email:** [sasmi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sasmi@ucalgary.ca)

**Office:** Social Sciences – SS1234

**Office Hours:** Zoom/telephone meetings by request

**COURSE INFORMATION**

A critical and analytical examination of some central moral problems that arise in and for business with emphasis on understanding the nature of the problems and identifying alternative solutions. By the end of the course students will understand the basics of several moral theories and be able to apply them in identifying and critically evaluating issues in contemporary business environments. Specifically, we will examine corporate social responsibility, environmental duties and climate justice, duties of fairness and non-discrimination in the workplace, the influence of advertising, and whistleblowing.

**PREREQUISITE(S)**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views in business ethics;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex arguments from a range of practical and ethical issues in business;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions; and
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Required text (available in the bookstore): ***With a Clear Conscience: Business Ethics, Decision-Making, and Strategic Thinking*** W. Jim Jordan et. al. (authors), Gregory G. Andres (editor), Oxford University Press. (2021) ISBN-13: 9780199038398

**An e-book is available for rental:** e-isbn: 9780199038404

Additional readings may be posted to D2L.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

### Course Assessment

All course components are to be submitted through the appropriate D2L dropbox prior to the due date/time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely and successful submissions.

- **Midterm tests (2)** due Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm and Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30pm. Worth 20%/25% (45% total).
- **Case study proposal** due Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm. Worth 20%.
- **Case study analysis** due Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Worth 35%.

There will not be a final exam for this course.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is NOT essential for passing this course as a whole.

**Late submissions will be accepted with appropriate documentation and prior arrangement with the instructor.** I know that we remain in trying times, and I will work with you as circumstances require, but you must contact me prior to due dates to agree an extension.

If no arrangements are agreed prior to the due date, a late penalty of 1/3 letter grade a day will apply (i.e. an A assignment a day late will be given an A-, two days late a B+, etc.) to a maximum of 5 days late.

### Midterm tests (45%)

The midterm tests are individual assessments to be completed at home and are not timed. The first will be posted to D2L at 2:00pm on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and due via D2L dropbox on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm. The second will be posted to D2L at 2:00pm on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and due via D2L dropbox on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30pm. The format of the tests will comprise a variety of question types and may include: true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long answer. A detailed breakdown of the test format will be posted to D2L the week prior to the test.

### Case study proposal (20%)

The main course assessment is a case study analysis where you will critically evaluate a case study of your choice emphasizing the ethical theories and views we discuss in class. The proposal will introduce the case study you wish to evaluate (you may research your own from reputable news or scholarly sources), and a summary of your intended argument. The purpose of the proposal is to ensure that you are on the right track and adequately engaging with course content. Proposals will be approximately 3 pages double-spaced with citations as needed (and a reference page). Further guidelines will be provided in class and posted to D2L.

### Case study analysis (35%)

Final case study analyses will expand on your proposal and consider/incorporate my feedback on your proposals. Essays will be 5-6 pages double-spaced with citations as needed (and a reference page).

### Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic Calendar:

A: Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

B: Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

C: Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.

D: Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent course in the same subject.

F: Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing WILL be a component in grading.

In all written work, proper and complete citations are extremely important. See section below "Academic Misconduct/Honesty".

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 96-100	B+ 80-84.99	C+ 65-69.99	D+ 50-54.99
A 90-95.99	B 75-79.99	C 60-64.99	D 45-49.99
A- 85-89.99	B- 70-74.99	C- 55-59.99	F 0-44.99

**IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

**Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services](http://ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

**Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>

for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy). Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)) or David Dick (Honours Advisor [dgduck@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgduck@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca))

## **Writing Assessment and Support**

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success).

## **Required Technology**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

## **Responsible Use of D2L**

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it>

for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote

learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:  
[https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

### **Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.p>