



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 329 – Business Ethics
Summer 2020

Course Outline

Lectures: MW 1:00 – 3:45 pm

Instructor: David Boutland

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Office: SS 1216

Office hours (via Zoom): Monday 12-1 pm, or by appointment.

Phone: N/A

Teaching Assistant Name: Nicholas Kerklaan

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Office: N/A

Office Hours:

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Course Description:

The course examines the philosophical foundations of ethics and ethical conduct with a specific focus on the theoretical and practical problems encountered in a variety of business disciplines. By the end of the course, students should understand several prominent moral theories well enough to anticipate, critically assess and respond to some of the critical ethical challenges arising in the contemporary business world. More specifically, we will examine issues and conflicts arising in business that have moral aspects to them, such as the ways employers treat their employees, employees their employers, as well as the ways businesses treat their competitors, their customers, their society, and the environment.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

- 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;

- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Texts:

- 1) *A Companion to Business Ethics*, ed. Robert E. Frederick, Blackwell Publishing, 2002. Our textbook is available online through the U of C library: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=350863>
- 2) Additional assigned readings are available through library e-journals. These are posted as pdf files on D2L, along with citation information.

Course Assessment:

There will be a quiz, weekly discussion board questions, a case analysis and take-home final exam. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>. There will NOT be a registrar-scheduled final exam.

<i>Weight</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due dates</i>
20%	Quiz	July 15
25%	Discussion Board	Weekly, starting July 1
25%	Case Analysis	July 29
30%	Take-home Final	August 15

All assignments are to be submitted on D2L. As there have been some problems associated with submitting on D2L, students are asked to save a screenshot of all submissions on D2L. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A- paper will receive a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. Late assignments can be submitted by email but will not receive comments. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof—downloading papers from the internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, website, or a fellow student—will be reported to the Faculty. Even copying one or two sentences, without citation, constitutes plagiarism.

Quiz (20%)

A take-home quiz will be made available during regular class time. Students will have 24 hours to complete and submit the exam.

Weekly Discussion Board Posts (25%)

Each week students will be given a discussion question related to the weekly topic and will be required to write a brief commentary, as well as provide a response to at least one other comment. Comments must be a minimum of 250 words, and responses must be a minimum of 100 words.

Case Analysis (25%)

You will be asked to choose one of two business ethics cases and write a paper according to the following instructions. The analysis should consist of three sections. The first section should present the strongest moral argument for the conclusion that the question at the end of the case should be answered in the affirmative. The second section should present the strongest moral argument for the conclusion that the question at the end of the case should be answered in the negative. The final section should offer an analysis of those arguments, in the process deriving your own conclusion as to what should be done.

The primary goal of the case analysis is to demonstrate an ability to apply moral theory to particular ethical dilemmas in business. Case analyses will be evaluated in terms of the strength of all the arguments presented, and the degree to which you understand and apply the moral theories you have chosen.

Take-Home Final (30%)

The take-home final will be made available on the last day of class, Wednesday, August 12. A copy of your final must be submitted to the course dropbox on D2L by 4:00 pm on Saturday, August 15.

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 courses in the same subject.

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

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

Grading scale:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	60-66		
F	59 and below				

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/policies/files/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/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.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. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines

- 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 arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator 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 (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. Devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

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.

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/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. 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 (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).