



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 329
Business Ethics
Summer 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr. Shelley Smith
Email: sasmi@ucalgary.ca
Zoom/telephone meetings by request

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION

This course will be delivered in a hybrid format with a synchronous zoom meeting Wednesdays 1-3pm.

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

A critical and analytical examination of some central moral problems that arise in and for business with emphasis on the details of the particular problems studied and the conceptual and other tools needed to understand and resolve or solve such problems. 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, and whistleblowing.

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/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

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

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Assessment

- **D2L discussion board participation** will be ongoing throughout the semester and is worth 10%.
- **Midterm quiz** due Friday, July 23rd at 11:30pm submitted through D2L dropbox. Worth 30%
- **Case study analysis** due Friday, August 6th at 11:30pm submitted through D2L dropbox. Worth 30%
- **Final exam** due Monday, August 16th at 4:00pm submitted through D2L dropbox. Worth 30%.

There will not be a Registrar scheduled 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 only be accepted with appropriate documentation and prior arrangement with the instructor. I know that we are in trying times right now, and I will work with you as circumstances require, but you must contact me prior to due dates to agree an extension.

D2L discussion board participation (10%)

Discussion topics will be posted to D2L every Monday morning relevant to that week's assigned reading and you will have until Sunday night at 11:30pm to contribute to the discussion. Discussion board posts will be graded each week on the basis of critical engagement with the course material and real-world experience. More detailed expectations for discussion board participation will be posted on D2L.

Midterm quiz (30%)

The midterm quiz is an at home quiz that will be posted to D2L at 3:00pm on Wednesday July 21st, and due via D2L dropbox on Friday, July 23rd at 11:30pm. The format of the quiz will comprise a variety of question type including: multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and long answer. A detailed breakdown of the quiz format will be posted to D2L the week prior to the quiz.

Case study analysis (30%)

The case study analysis is an argumentative essay demonstrating comprehension and critical evaluation of a contemporary issue in business ethics. You will choose 1 of 3 case studies to focus your writing. I will post the case studies to D2L Friday, July 23rd. Essays will be 5-6 pages double-spaced with **citations as needed** (and a reference page).

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be posted to D2L on Thursday, August 12th at 8:00am and is due Monday, August 16th at 4:00pm. The format will be 2 short essays (3-4 pages double-spaced each). The first essay will be a critical response to a theoretical issue in contemporary business ethics. The second essay will be a case study analysis.

More details regarding material covered and study suggestions will be given in advance of the exam.

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.

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.

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. 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

- 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. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit 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

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/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.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).