

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18

Philosophy 2074F: Business Ethics

Term: Fall 2017
M W F, 2:30 to 3:30, SSC 2032

Instructor: Dean Proessel
Office Hours: M W, 1:30 to 2:30
Email: dproesse@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

It is sometimes said that the phrase “business ethics” is an oxymoron. In this course we will attempt to dispel this popular conception. By working our way through many of the moral issues to which the practice of business gives rise, we will show that the interests of business people and moral philosophers converge. Topics include: What is the nature of moral reasoning? Do corporations have social responsibilities? What social responsibilities do corporations have when operating in the global context? Are there universal ethical principles which can guide the conduct of multinational corporations? Do international sweatshops violate human rights? Can the capitalist market economy be justified? What constitutes a just distribution of the goods disclose to consum

TEXTS

Business In Ethical Focus 2nd edition, edited by Fritz Allhoff, Alexandra Sager and Anand Vaidya, Broadview Press, 2017

OBJECTIVES

In examining the topics and questions mentioned above, students will be expected to achieve the following course objectives:

- Develop an understanding of ethical theory, in particular utilitarianism, deontology, relativism and human rights.
- Develop the ability to reflect on the practice of business from a critical, moral point of view.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing a term paper.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper	30%
Paper	30%
Final Exam	40%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.