

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 3005 LE BUSINESS ETHICS**

(Updated Fall 2025)

**UK LEVEL: 5**  
**UK CREDITS: 15**  
**US CREDITS: 3/0/3****PREREQUISITES:**

None

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to major theories and basic moral problems in the domain of business. The use of reasoning in moral assessment of business practices. Application of moral theories to specific cases of corporate conduct ranging from the individual to society in general, in the local and the international context.

**RATIONALE:**

The course aims to provide the student with basic knowledge of philosophical moral theories and types of logical argument used in ethical decision-making via constant reference to specific business cases and moral quandaries. It also aims to situate ethical problems in business and management within the wider context of political and economic theory and practice, both at the local and the international level. Invaluable in any business school curriculum.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic moral theories and critically evaluate their arguments as applied in the areas of business and economics.
2. Utilize ethical theories as tools of decision-making on actual business issues or dilemmas in the areas of business and economics.
3. Critically evaluate the viability of alternative theoretical moral outlooks as applied on problem resolution in business.
4. Determine ethical issues in business within the wider context of social, political and economic systems at both the local and the international level.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the College, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures and interactive learning (class discussions of contemporary articles, as well as of case studies assigned by the instructor). Emphasis is put on the application of moral theoretical tools in business decision making by means of case studies.
- Use of video presentations.
- Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can discuss the course material.
- Use of Blackboard, where instructors can post lecture notes assignment instructions, timely announcements, and additional resources.
- Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their assignments as well as for preparation for the final exam.

<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<b>Summative:</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 185 1552 405"> <tr> <td>First assessment: In-class Midterm-Examination (essay-type questions, choice: 1 out of 2)</td><td><b>30%</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Second assessment: Portfolio of assessments</td><td><b>10%</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Final assessment: In-class Final Examination (essay-type questions, choice: 2 out of 4)</td><td><b>60%</b></td></tr> </table> <b>Formative:</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 510 1465 584"> <tr> <td>Home assignments Essay-type questions</td><td><b>0%</b></td></tr> </table> <p>The formative assignment aims to prepare students for the exams.</p> <p>The midterm examination tests Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. The portfolio of assessments tests Learning Outcome 3. The final examination tests Learning Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	First assessment: In-class Midterm-Examination (essay-type questions, choice: 1 out of 2)	<b>30%</b>	Second assessment: Portfolio of assessments	<b>10%</b>	Final assessment: In-class Final Examination (essay-type questions, choice: 2 out of 4)	<b>60%</b>	Home assignments Essay-type questions	<b>0%</b>
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<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<b>REQUIRED READING:</b> Boatright, John R. & Smith, Jeffery. <u>Ethics and the Conduct of Business</u> . 8 <sup>th</sup> . Ed. Pearson, 2017.  <b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b> Boatright, John. <u>Ethics in Finance</u> . 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Wiley Blackwell, 2013.  Brenkert, George G & Beauchamp, Tom, L (Eds.). <u>The Oxford Handbook of Business Ethics</u> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.  De George, Richard T. <u>Business Ethics</u> . New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., 2010.  Donaldson, Thomas & Werhane, Patricia (eds.). <u>Business Ethics: A Philosophical Approach</u> . New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1996 (Article by Bob Solomon "Corporate Roles, Personal Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach to Business Ethics", pp. 45-59).  Hoffman, Michael W., Frederick, Robert & Schwartz, Mark S. (eds.) <u>Business Ethics (Readings and Cases in Corporate Morality)</u> . McGraw-Hill, 4 <sup>th</sup> edition, 2001.  Khanka, S.S. <u>Business Ethics and Corporate Governance (Principles and Practices)</u> , 2013.  Mele, Dominic. <u>The Humanistic Person-Centered Company: Conceptual Foundations</u> . Eminent Voices in Business Ethics,								

	<p>Vol.55, ed. Frank den Hond. Springel, 2024.</p> <p>Patsioti-Tsacpounidis, I. "Aristotle's <i>Akrasia</i> and Corporate Corruption: Redefining Integrity in Business". <i>Journal of the Philosophy of Management</i>, 2023.</p> <p>Spitzeck, Heiko, et al. (eds.). <i>Humanism in Business</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.</p> <p>Velasquez, Manuel G. <i>Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases</i>. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson, 2017.</p> <p>Wang, G &amp; Hackett, R.D. "Virtues-centered moral identity: An identity-based explanation of the functioning of virtuous leadership". <i>The Leadership Quarterly</i> 31, 2020.</p>
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> <i>(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</i>	<b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> Journal of Business Ethics Business Ethics Quarterly Journal of Academic and Business Ethics Philosophy of Management Harvard Business Review Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management Journal
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Class discussions in academic / professional English.
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Microsoft Word
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<a href="http://www.hbsp.harvard.edu">http://www.hbsp.harvard.edu</a> <a href="http://www.business-ethics.com/">http://www.business-ethics.com/</a> <a href="http://www.harvardjustice.org">http://www.harvardjustice.org</a>
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	Chapter 1 – Ethics in the World of Business. Chapter 2 – Ethical Decision Making Chapter 3 – Ethical Theories Chapter 4 – Whistle-Blowing Chapter 5 – Trade Secrets and Conflict of Interest Chapter 6 – Privacy The Employee Right to Privacy Data Privacy and Confidentiality Chapter 7 – Discrimination and Affirmative Action – Issues of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Chapter 8 – Employment Rights Chapter 9 – Occupational Health and Safety Chapter 10 – Marketing, Advertising, and Product Safety Chapter 11 – Ethics in Finance Chapter 12 – Corporate Social Responsibility Chapter 13 – Corporate Governance and Accountability – Ethics Programmes – International Business and Ethics