



SELF PROGRAM 2025/2026

Business Ethics

Paul Scott Griffiths

Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 3 hours

Teaching period: spring semester 2026

Course description:

This course focuses on the importance of ethical perceptions and corporate social responsibility as an inevitable factor in business. As a discipline, Business Ethics has grown considerably within the last few decades and has become a major field in the age of globalisation. It refers to values-based conduct, which does not only apply to individuals but to corporations.

There are several objectives:

- Identifying the ethical dimensions of business practice (an emphasis on large corporations.)
- Consider ethical theory and make an ethical inquiry into a case study in order to reach an ethically justifiable position.
- Consider the theory and practice in business relationships with employees, consumers, government, the environment, the law, and society as a whole.
- There will be an emphasis on expressing one's thoughts on these matters in a clear and well-argued manner.

Prerequisites:

None

Course objectives:

1. To have developed knowledge and understanding of business ethics;
2. To be able to critically evaluate business ethics theories and their relevance for contemporary business;
3. To be able to analyse the key tools for understanding and practising ethics in business;
4. To be able to appraise the business and personal case for business ethics.

You should obtain the following skills:

1. Problem solving skills. Developed through identifying, formulating and solving organisational ethical issues.
2. Organisational skills. Developed through focus on research in current ethical practice in a variety of organisational contexts.
3. Communication skills. Developed through academic and business written communication.
4. International awareness. Developed through a specific component of group and individually based learning.
5. Ethical awareness. Developed through exercise and evaluate practical judgments in decision making concerning a variety of ethical issues.
6. Adaptability. Developed through cognitive skills of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis.
7. Teamwork. Developed through group based learning / activities.
8. Lifelong learning skills. Developed through group and individually based learning.

Assessment:

- 50% Final exam
- 50% Presentations

Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography:

Ferrell & Fraedrich, Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making & Cases (13th edition)

Manuel G. Velasquez, Business Ethics Concepts and Cases (7th International edition)

Both have e-book versions.