

Business and Organizational Ethics
Philosophy 644

Professor: *Shannon McIntyre Skousgaard, Ph.D.*

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Office Hours: TR 1030-1145; by appointment

Course Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore both the concept and the application of ethics in the business world. An in-depth exploration of the foundations of ethics, of the major ethical theories, and of classical ethical principles, provides the foundation of the course. With this background students are able to identify and grapple with ethical issues that arise in business. They examine organizational purposes, structures and cultures in order to appreciate the complex relationships within which ethical principles are applicable. Students address specific ethical issues in business, developing ethical literacy within the complex setting of moral questions. Finally, students learn how to develop and nurture a workplace culture in which ethics is highly valued.

Course Objectives

1. To learn foundational ethical theories and principles
2. To identify principles and theories significant for business
3. To apply those principles and theories to specific cases and examples
4. To identify a corporate culture in which ethics thrives
5. To learn the principles that enable one to build and sustain an ethical culture in the workplace

Required Texts

William H. Shaw, *Business Ethics*

Spitzer, *The Spirit of Leadership optimizing creativity and change in organizations*

John Paul II *Centesimus Annus*

Articles and readings as assigned by professor

Course Requirements

1. Student Responsibility

The professor assumes the student has read required texts as assigned; in class we work from that point toward class objectives in a participative lecture format. The professor provides significant related material not covered in the text, and *the student is fully responsible for all information presented whether or not he is in class.*

2. Assignments

A. An 8-10 page essay on a subject selected by the student and approved by the professor. **Due October 2. Subject proposal due in writing or via email September 11.** The professor will provide instructions on writing the paper in class.

B. One oral report to the class on the ethical dimensions of an issue or problem selected by the student and approved by the professor **at a date scheduled by the professor. Subject proposal due in writing or via email September 18.**

C. Written research paper in support of oral presentation **due one week after oral presentation.**

C. One essay examination covering texts and class discussions, **due December 4.** *Note:* this essay will require full comprehension of materials presented in class, whether the student was present or not.

Grading Policy

1. Only major, verified excuses will be permitted for missing an examination or paper deadline. Papers are due at the beginning of class the date indicated. They will be counted as late for one class period if they are turned in 15 minutes after class is scheduled to begin; late submissions will be docked one letter the first class period missed and one letter grade for the second class period missed.

2. The following percentages will be used to determine final grades:

Essay	20%
Class Presentation	20%
Written Report	30%
Examination	30%