

COURSE SYLLABUS



BUSINESS ETHICS

IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

Suggested US semester credit hours: 4 credits

Contact Hours: 60

Course Level: 200

IFSA-Butler course code: LE380-19

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the concept of business ethics and to examine its relevance when considering business objectives and responsibilities. In this course students will examine the theoretical roots to the background and growth of business ethics. They will look at the different types of ethical issues a business needs to consider and how the development of ethical values impacts on business behavior. Students will also examine how an individual's ethical stance impacts on the moral relationship between employer and employee, as well as considering the contractual responsibilities of both parties. This course will give students the opportunity to research how a business responds to ethical concerns and assess the extent to which its activities affect its behavior, while ensuring business objectives are met.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Understand basic concepts of business ethics
- Be able to examine the relevance of business ethics when considering business objectives and responsibilities
- Understand how ethical values impact business behavior and employee behavior
- Become aware of contractual concerns related to business ethics
- Strengthen research skills
- Strengthen critical thinking skills
- Become familiar with resources available for further research on business ethics.
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

COURSE DELIVERY

Students are expected to read or view resources in advance and be prepared to actively discuss them in class. In each meeting, the instructor will overview the topic and then facilitate a group discussion, drawing out relevant themes, following up on specific lines of inquiry, and prompting students' thoughtful engagement with the topic. Students are encouraged to bring their prior learning experiences into class discussions and to make cognitive connections between this course and others in the IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague whenever possible. Theories of experiential learning and integrative learning therefore undergird the dynamic learning environment of this course.

This course utilizes an interactive approach to teaching that focuses on the individual student's needs. This approach to teaching and learning aims to foster a challenging but caring environment that allows students to explore, create, and test themselves and their ideas in a safe place.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Content Delivery
1 - 3	<p>Understand different ethical perspectives in business</p> <p>Ethical perspectives: deontological and teleological ethical theory; developments from these early approaches eg utilitarianism and other consequential approaches; early contributions of Kant and Mill; absolute and relative ethics; Institute of Business Ethics</p> <p>Operational activities: definitions of business ethics; ethical activities; values of businesses; professional ethics</p> <p>Ethical issues: corporate governance; corporate social responsibility; environment; sustainability; human rights; corruption; trading fairly; legal and regulatory compliance; business practices; working conditions; individual ethical responsibilities.</p>
4 - 6	<p>Understand business objectives from an ethical perspective</p> <p>Objectives: corporate governance; corporate social responsibility; environment; sustainability; human rights; corruption; trading fairly; legal and regulatory compliance; business practices; communicating ethical code.</p> <p>Stakeholders: stakeholders (owners, employees, customers, suppliers, competitors, citizens); conflicts of interest between stakeholder groups eg shareholders versus environmentalists.</p> <p>Implications: adapting business behavior; responding to ethical pressures; implementing ethical practices; influence of stakeholders and pressure groups; impact on competitiveness; reputation; public image; ethical trade; value-added; complying with relevant legislation and codes of practice eg UK/US law, EU law; UN Declaration on Human Rights; UN Global Compact; economic activity eg location.</p> <p>Written Report</p>

7 - 9	<p>Understand ethics in workplace relationships</p> <p>Working relationships: contractual responsibilities; moral obligations in employer/employee relationships; whistleblowing; the psychological contract; good practice in equal opportunities employment; organizational integrity; working conditions; individual ethical responsibilities; individual ethical behavior.</p>
10 - 15	<p>Be able to assess a current ethical issue in a business</p> <p>Issues: corporate social responsibility; globalization; cultural imperialism; ecology; environment; fair trade; corruption; animal testing; child labor; carbon footprint; sources of timber; outsourcing; personal attitudes; whistle blowing; contribution of business to the community; ethics in sales and marketing eg spamming, skills, product placement, green washing; ethics in intellectual property eg software piracy, counterfeiting, peer-to-peer file sharing</p> <p>Implications: global eg environment; corporate eg legal and regulatory compliance, policies and practices; individual (employee, consumer).</p> <p>Individual Presentation</p>

EVALUATION METHODS

The course instructor will determine specific assignments (including paper topics), projects, and exams for the course. Your work on individual assignments and projects will be guided by grading rubrics provided by the course instructor. Your final grade in the course will be arrived at through assessment methods determined by the course instructor and according to the percentages attached to each assignment and exam by the course instructor. Participation will constitute a determined percentage of your grade. Participation includes attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect.

Assignment Number	Type of Assignment	Description and Areas Assessed
1	Written Report	Material covered during weeks 1 to 6
2	Individual presentation	Material covered during weeks 7 to 12 based on selected organization

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

READING LIST

- Aldred, Jonathan. (2009). *The Skeptical Economist: Revealing the Ethics Inside Economics*.
- Badaracco, Joseph L. (1997). *Defining Moments: When Managers Must Choose Between Right and Right*.
- Badaracco, Joseph L. (2013). *The Good Struggle: Responsible Leadership in an Unforgiving World*.
- Badaracco, Joseph L. (2006). *Questions of Character: Illuminating the Heart of Leadership Through Literature*.
- Bakan, J. (2004). *The Corporation*.
- Bazerman, Max. (2014). *The Power of Noticing: What the Best Leaders See*.
- Bazerman, Max H. and Moore, Don A. (2012). *Judgment in Managerial Decision-Making*.
- Bazerman, Max H. and Tenbrunsel, Ann E. (2012). *Blind Spots: Why We Fail to Do What's Right and What to Do about It*.
- Beer, Lawrence A. (2015). *A Strategic and Tactical Approach to Global Business Ethics, Second Edition*.
- Beer, Lawrence A. (2012). *Essential Concepts of Cross-Cultural Management: Building on What We All Share*.
- Chouinard, Yvon. (2013). *The Responsible Company*.
- Chua, A. (2004). *World on Fire*.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.